

# Coming in December...

## York College Theatre

continues its

## 2014-15 Season of **VISIONS**

with a controversial look at a hotly debated issue....

### TEACH for AMERICA

A new play by Rob Ackerman

Directed by Hadi Tabbal

Shipnia, teaching history under the Teach for America program, finds herself at a dilapidated high school in the Mid West. She is inspiring, dedicated, and passionate. Yet sooner than later, Shipnia realizes that the system surrounding her employment might be just stronger than her passion, and that the world at the school might be harder to navigate than she ever imagined. What starts off as a hopeful school year turns into a series of questions and battles... battles that are much bigger than a high school classroom.

December 5 at 4pm

December 6 at 7pm

December 7 at 3pm

December 9 at 12pm

December 12 at 7pm

December 13 at 2pm

# *Educate yourself!*

2014  
York College Theatre Presents...

# Strange Worlds in my mind



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

**October 24 at 4pm**

**October 25 at 7pm**

**October 26 at 3pm**

**October 28 at 12pm**



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.

# Performing and Fine Arts Department

## COMING EVENTS – Fall 2014

23

### **FINE ARTS**

York College Fine Arts Gallery Exhibition:

*Build Up/ Built Up – Io Palmer*

Opening: Thursday, October 23, 2014

Closing: Friday, December 5, 2014

### **COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

The Fall Communications Technology

“Digital Art & Technology Showcase”

“The Bridge” Room 4M04

The CT Makerlab

[www.the-bridge.cc](http://www.the-bridge.cc)

December 16th from 12-2pm.

### **MUSIC**

### **THEATRE**

***Teach for AMERICA***

A new play by Rob Ackerman

*Directed by Hadi Tabbal*

December 5 - 13

23

# **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.



Share

Join the **YORK COLLEGE THEATRE** Facebook Group and keep up-to-date with all our productions and course offerings.



## YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

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

Little Theatre/ October 24–28, 2014

*Presents*

# *Strange Worlds in my mind*

*Created by Kristine Haruna Lee & Cast*

*Directed by Kristine Haruna Lee*

SCENIC DESIGN  
Benjamin MacKrell

COSTUMES  
Karen Boyer

LIGHTING DESIGN  
Katy Atwell

SOUND/VIDEO DESIGN  
Stevo Arnoczy

TECHNICAL DIRECTION  
Benjamin MacKrell

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
\*Jessica Pecharsky

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Christina Acosta

DRAMATURG  
Khadija Anderson

### **CAST**

Ashlee Alexander	Eliza Asensi	Hermilo Bautista
Anthony Castro	Bellene Fisher	Shatiek Johnson
Katrina Trisha Moise	Eric Normil-Mendez	Vania St. Louis

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

# Dramaturg Notes

## A New Experience

After doing some research and speaking to some of the “vets” of the theater world I was able to come up with my own definition of what the role of a dramaturg consists of. A dramaturg’s main job is to research the ideas that make a play work. This can include the history of the play, background knowledge of the writer, information on the era in which the play is set, etc. With this information the dramaturg can work with the actors to help them understand their parts and the purpose of the play. For this play my job included researching some of the plays themes, including the Jim Crow era, minstrelsy, Sun Ra, and afro-futurism and relate them to events that are happening now.



Sun Ra was born Herman Blount on May 22, 1914 in Birmingham, Alabama. Being that Birmingham was an important stop for touring musicians, Sun Ra grew up seeing many famous musicians. This is believed to have helped encourage his interest in music. By the age of about eleven he was already a skilled pianist able to sight read and compose music. In 1934 he was offered his first full-time musical job at the age of 20. He toured with a band organized by singer Ethel Harper, his high school biology teacher. Shortly afterward, he took leadership of the band



**Dolores Swirin**

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Unit

**Olga Dais, Esq.**

Executive Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs

**Barbara Manuel**

Executive Director of Human Resources

**Sharon Davidson**

Registrar

**Linda Chesney**

Director for Career Services

**Earl Simons**

Director of Government and Community Relations

**Mondell Sealy**

Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

**Dr. Jean Phelps**

Director of Student Activities and Campus Programming

**Cynthia Murphy**

Executive Director of Adult and Continuing Education





## **YORK COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION**

**Dr. Marcia V. Keizs**

President

**Dr. Panayiotis Meleties**

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Ronald C. Thomas**

Acting Vice President for Administrative Affairs

**Ismael Perez**

Assistant Vice President for Planning and Budget

**Dr. Geneva M. Walker-Johnson**

Vice President for Student Development

**Dr. Holger Henke**

Assistant Provost

**Dr. Vincent Banrey**

Dean of Students

**Dr. Donna Chirico**

Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Panayiotis Meleties**

Acting Dean, School of Business and Information Systems

**Dr. Lynne W. Clark**

Dean, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences

**Dr. William Dinello**

Dean, Executive Office

renaming them the Sonny Blount Orchestra. Sun Ra's style of music is often associated with Big Band music but in time he came up with his own version Jazz, an avant-garde space jazz called Afro-Futurism.

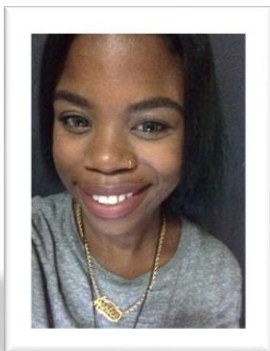
Afro-Futurism is a mixture of history and science fiction, as well as Afro-Centricity. That is truly the philosophy of Sun Ra, to be able to teach the struggle of black people and "black music" with a sound that draws people in. Afro-Futurism affected his performances as well as the whole band would dress up in these very flashy robes and headdresses – not the typical clothing of an orchestra. Of course this type of very different music wasn't the best to some, but many people loved Sun Ra. I believe it was because of his ability to use historical encounters with a science fiction twist that really stuck with people. One artist of today that has been influenced by Sun Ra is Andre 3000, a member of group OutKast. Andre 3000 is well known for his futuristic sounding music, and his very bold and unusual sense of style.



Before this independent study I had no idea what a dramaturg was, let alone how to be one. After learning more about Sun Ra I was able to make sense of how he is portrayed in the play. *Strange Worlds in My Mind* is definitely a unique play, by far way more different than any other play I have seen or been a part of. I think that because I had the opportunity of being the dramaturg in this play I not only had the opportunity to be involved in a different genre of theater, but also got to view a whole new side of the theater world.

- **Khadija Anderson** (*Dramaturg*)

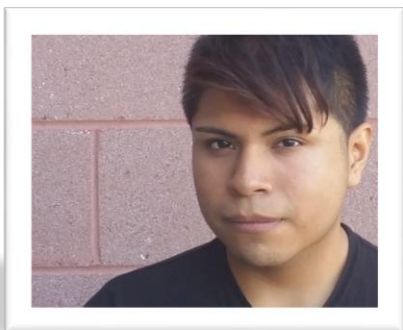
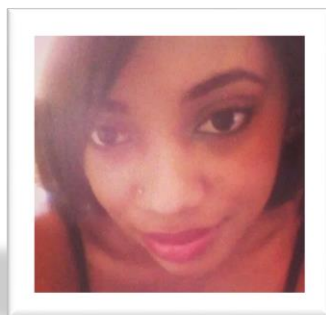
# THE CAST



## ASHLEE ALEXANDER

(*Beauty Contestant #27*) is a theater major here at York College. Over the years she has participated in high school talent shows at Robert F. Kennedy Community High school. Past stage credits include: Off-Off Broadway productions of *Run That Back*, *Visiting Ours* and *Off The Record* presented by the Tuesday/Thursday cast of The Possibility Project. Not only has she co-starred in these productions but she also co-wrote the original musical with the help of her fellow cast. She hopes to continue her acting career and use it to help others.

**ELIZA ASENSI** (*Victoria/Beauty Contestant #43*) is a senior at York College majoring in English literature with a minor in Theater Arts. This is her second performance at York College, her first being part of the ensemble in last year's *Dreamgirls*. She staged managed last summer's *Starving But Making It* here at York, and is an aspiring actress and writer. Her future is bright and she looks forward to what the world has in store for her.



## HERMILO BAUTISTA (*Richard*)

is a Theater Arts major at York College. He prefers being called Milo by his peers because he believes it's easier to pronounce. Milo has been involved in three productions as a backstage crew member: *The Love Magnet*, *Starving But Making It*, and *Dreamgirls*. Last fall he made his debut at York College Theater playing Covielle in the play *The Bourgeois Gentlehomme* by Moliere. Last spring

semester, Milo performed as Francis Flute/Thisbe in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. This past summer he was part of the cast *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen as a Monster/Steve. Milo is excited to be once again on stage as Richard in *Strange Worlds in My Mind* by Kristine Haruna Lee.

## **YORK COLLEGE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

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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. Hajikano  
Distinguished Lecturer Prof. Vendryes  
CLT Fraser

### **MUSIC**

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

### **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



**DAVID T. JONES** (*Adjunct Lecturer of Theatre and Drama Club Advisor*) Adjunct Lecturer of Theatre and Drama Club Advisor at York College, David 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*, *Le Bourgeoise Gentilehomme*, and last semester's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 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 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *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.)



**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.



**ANTHONY CASTRO** (Charles / Anthony) is a sophomore. Last season at York College Theatre he played Robert and Henry Irving in *An Evening of Durang*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Miles in *She Kills Monsters*. Anthony has been in various productions, both scripted and improvised shows all throughout middle and high school.

**BELLENE FISHER** (*Smudge*) is back again for her second production on stage. Bellene was last seen in the Spring 2014's production of *An Evening of Durang* where she played Jane in *Identity Crisis* and the stage manager Meg in *The Actor's Nightmare*. Bellene is an upper junior

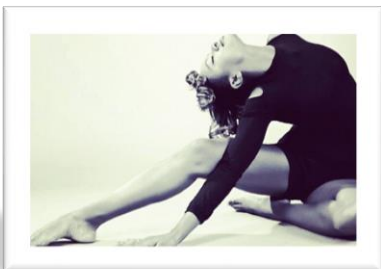
at York College and is Double Majoring in English and Theatre Arts so she could learn the trade of creative writing to help her establish her dream of being an actress and a playwright. She is also the treasurer of the York College Drama Royals, which she is proud to serve. Bellene's passion for the theater grows stronger by the day, which makes her want to learn all the aspects of the theatre besides learning the craft of acting. That is why even if she is not given the chance to act she will also be working backstage. Bellene is extremely excited for *Strange Worlds* and would love to thank the director/ playwright Kristine Haruna Lee for giving her a chance to be part of this strange abstract original piece of art, and she hopes that everyone who comes to see it will fall in love with it too.



**SHATIEK JOHNSON** (*Sun Ra*) is a senior at majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. He is very excited to be back on the York College Theatre stage! *Strange Worlds in My Mind* will be his fifth production. York productions include *Lady Macbeth*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, and his favorite, York College's production of *DreamGirls* where he played the lead Curtis Taylor Jr. Shatiek hopes to use his degree in theatre to work with and inspire children and teens who love to express their self through all types of Theatre - leading with the quote,

"Being an US for once instead of a THEM." -*RENT*. He is very grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank all his supporters.





## KATRINA TRISHA MOISE

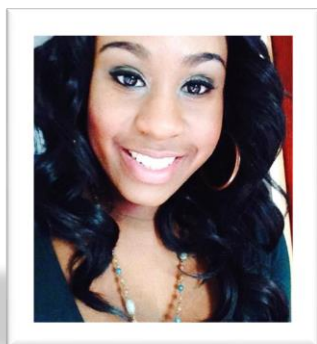
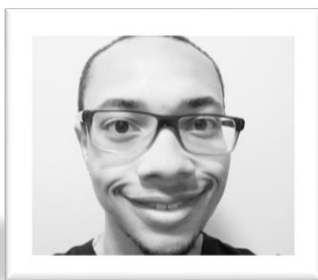
(Isabelle / Beauty Contestant) is a well versed dancer in the areas of ballet, tap, jazz, modern, African, and ballroom. She has studied at various schools across the globe including Long Island High School for the Arts and Ballet Hispanico. She has also studied acting and been in various independent shows such as *The*

*Music Man* and last semester's *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. She is a graduate of York College, double majoring in Anthropology and Sociology. Her passion for dancing has led her to perform on *Dancing with the Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance*. She aspires to be a Movement Science educator and travel the world.

## ERIC NORMIL-MENDEZ (Eric)

began his interests in the performance arts with creative writing and spoken-word poetry. In high school, Eric won Honorable Mention in the *Random House Creative Writing Competition 2010* and performed spoken-word poetry in many open-mic and community talent showcases including the *Knicks Poetry Slam* and at the *Afrikan Poetry Theatre*.

During his senior year of high school, Eric started working at *Community Youth Care Services Inc.* Out-of-School program. Today Eric studies speech communication/theater arts at York College. At York, Eric serves as an on-air radio personality and ambassador for the college's online radio station, where he won the York Remixed 2014 "1st Place; Golden Mixing Board Award" and is a member of the York Track & Field team. Eric is excited to be apart of *Strange Worlds in My Mind*.



## VANIA ST. LOUIS (Annabelle/Sun Ra) is

a senior majoring in Theater Arts with a minor in Fine Arts. She has starred in numerous productions while at York including, *Love Magnet*, *Starving But Making It*, *Tuskegee Airman*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, *An Evening of Durang* and most recently *She Kills Monsters*. She has worked as Head Seamstress on *Dreamgirls* and *Flea in Her Ear*. Vania has also danced in several Red Shoes Club productions. She plans on continuing her career outside of York once she graduates. She is very grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank all of her supporters.



# 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: *An Evening of Durang*, *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.

**DOMINIQUE MAGLIORE** (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College majoring in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts. It is her first time working backstage for a York production. She enjoys listening to music, reading poetry and seeing the behind-the-scenes work that goes into putting on a great show. Dominique hopes to work backstage in the future and, after graduation, to pursue a career in media management.

**VICTORIA MARQUEZ** (Backstage Crew) is a sophomore at York College majoring in Speech Communications/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 working with her hands, building and sculpting. A veteran crew member, she is Scenic Coordinator for the Drama Royals' next show, "Jesus Hopped the A Train." She hopes to become a speech therapist specializing in helping soldiers who have acquired speech defects.

**KENNIS SYLVESTER** (Backstage Crew) is senior at York majoring in Business and Marketing. He lives in Brooklyn with his younger brother, Keenan. In his spare time he organizes events such as fashion shows, parties and fundraisers. In the future he aspires to own a boutique selling high-end clothing. While taking "Intro to Theatre" last summer, one of his assignments was to see a live play. He found "Shakespeare in the Park" amazing and it fueled a fascination with live theatre. He registered for the backstage course to be more involved in production. This is his first time working on a play, and though it takes many people and much effort, so far it has been a fun experience for Kennis.

**ENRIQUE VALDEZ** (Backstage Crew) is a sophomore at York majoring in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts. This is his first production at the college, but he has always held an interest in acting and stage production. He looks forward to working backstage, but also hopes that he will be onstage soon.

**DAVID VOLCY** (Backstage Crew) is a sophomore majoring in Speech Communications/ Theatre Arts. He enjoys dancing and music, both as a listener and a writer. It has been his passion to be an artist and entertainer since the age of three. He also has an interest in acting as part of his craft. In his spare time he choreographs and teaches hip-hop 101 to younger and beginning students in his neighborhood. David is no stranger to the York College stage and has been in many productions with the Red Shoes dance club. He plans to perform in York College theatre productions before he graduates.

# Direction & Design Team

**Kristine Haruna Lee** (*Playwright / Director*) is a playwright, director, and performer based in Brooklyn.

She is a founding member of harunalee theatre company.

*New York Theatre Review* calls it,

"a feast for the eyes as well as the mind and heart." Since

2010, they have been

producing work throughout

New York (*Plum de Force* at

Bushwick Starr, *Drunkfish*

*Oceanrant* at Jack, *She's Sleep*

at Ars Nova) and have

developed their work through Prelude Festival 2012 + 2013, Joe's Pub, The

Propeller Series at The Bushwick Starr, Target Margin's Lab Series, Asian American

Writer's Workshop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation, The Movement Theatre Company, and New

Dramatists. They have received a 2013 LMCC grant for their upcoming collaboration

with Built for Collapse on *Drunkfish Oceanrant*, and a Dixon Place Artist Residency

and Commission for their upcoming production of *War Lesbian*, a new musical.

Outside of the company, Lee has performed nationally and internationally with

artists such as Taylor Mac, NAATCO, The Talking Band, Yubiwa Hotel and Trista

Baldwin, Andrea Geyer's *Comrades of Time* at the Whitney Biennial, The Metawee

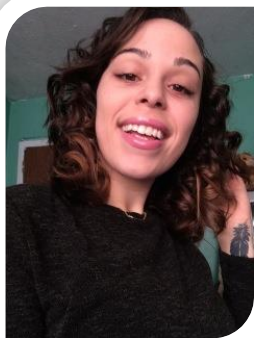
River Theater Company, Yoshiko Chuma and the School of Hardknocks, Cathy

Shaw, William Burke, Kate Benson, and the E.P. release of Antony and the

Johnsons's *Another World*. She is a recipient of the New Dramatists Van Lier

Fellowship. She holds a BFA from NYU Tisch, and an M.F.A from Brooklyn College

with Mac Wellman and Erin Courtney.



## **CHRISTINA ACOSTA** (*Assistant*

*Director*) is a recent York graduate, with a

degree in Business Administration and a

passion for dance. She has an interest in

acting as well. She has a dance background in

hip-hop and has done many shows throughout

high school and college. She is gaining

training in contemporary, jazz and ballet as

she works and takes classes at Broadway

Dance Center and does volunteer work for

dance companies. She strongly supports the

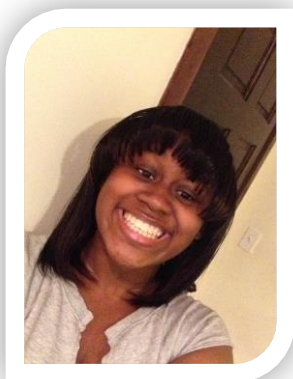
arts and hopes to one day open her own dance

studio to share her life experiences with the

generation after her.

## KHADIJA ANDERSON

(*Dramaturg*) is a junior at the City University of New York majoring in Entertainment Business and Entrepreneurship. At Queensborough Community College where she had the opportunity of being the Assistant Director for the play "Columbinus". Upon graduating Khadija plans to own a concert hall and manager her own after school program for the arts.



## STEVO ARNOCZY (*Sound /*

*Video Design*) is a freelance media designer, actor, and founding member of harunalee theatre company. He is native to New York City, and currently based in Sunnyside. He attended NYU (TSOA '04-'08) and received his BFA in Acting. In 2010, he formed

**LiveMusicVideo**, a company dedicated to exploring live performance in tandem with projected content. Stevo is an associate video designer at Imaginary Media Artists. He has had the great

fortune to work with many emerging and established artists including: Alex Timbers,

ANIMALS, Avan Lava, Built 4 Collapse, The Stein/Holum Project, Fresh Ground Pepper, Liz Lerman, The Dance Cartel, the TEAM, Club Girls, and Maya Ciarrocchi. He has been commissioned for work by photographer Mike Ruiz, and recording artist Jose Feliciano. His work has been seen in NYMF (New York Musical Festival), and at 3LD, Theater Row, XL Nightclub, Kent 285, TBA, The Living Theater, The House of Yes, Sleep No More, The Bushwick Starr, MSU, Swarthmore College, and Ars Nova. His video design for BIO-HAZARD: A Relative Comedy won the 2013 United Solo Festival Award for BEST MULTIMEDIA.

# **BACKSTAGE CREW**

**ANTHONY ALICIA** (Backstage Crew) is a senior majoring in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts. He is currently President of the Drama Royals Club. He has a love for theatre and is always willing to lend a helping hand. He hopes York College Theatre can grow bigger and stronger!!! He also hopes to become a teacher so he can spread his love for the arts to others.

**BABITA BASSOON** (House Manager) is a senior at York majoring in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts. She has participated in school productions since early childhood. She enjoys shopping, acting, listening to music and babysitting her niece. Babita hopes to participate in future shows at York after graduation. She plans to continue her career as an actress.

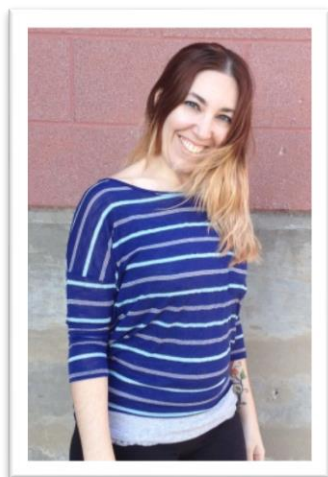
**NATOUCHKA COURTIEN** (Backstage Crew) is a lower senior majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies at York College. In her spare time she likes to listen to gospel music, read, cook and go to the movies. She plans to graduate this fall semester. This is her first time taking a theatre course. She enjoys it so far and looks forward to learning even more.

**YASHA GEORGES** (Backstage Crew) is a senior at York College and a major in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts. This is her first production at York. She is very excited to finally see a show from backstage. She would like to thank Prof. Hadi for the encouragement to take more theatre classes and Prof. Jones and Prof. Mackrell for making it enjoyable. Yasha enjoys spending her free time with family and traveling.

**JULIAN JONES** (Backstage Crew) is a junior at York College majoring in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts. He has yet to appear as an actor in a York production. Julian is a student athlete with the York basketball team. He can be seen at the York College gym during the season and around the theatre anytime else.

**ISRAEL LEWIS** (Backstage Crew) is a lower junior at York majoring in Speech Communications/Theatre Arts who loves acting and music. He has appeared in several short films and plays at St. John's University and at York. He is currently appearing in another off-Broadway play. His future plan is 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?"

## THEATRE ARTS STAFF

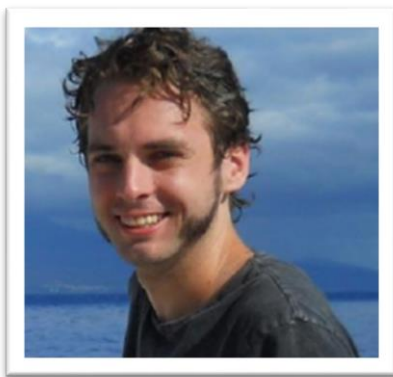


**JESSICA PECHARSKY** (*Production Stage Manager / CLT*) is a graduate of Hofstra University in dance and theatre. Once at Hofstra, Jessica moved her focus to stage management. She has been stage managing professionally since 2000. She has held resident stage management positions with Streetlight Productions 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).

### **BENJAMIN MACKRELL**

(*Set Design/ 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.



## KATY ATWELL

(Lighting Design) Recent

credits include *Satchel*

*Paige and the Kansas*

*City Swing* (Martha's

Vineyard Playhouse),

*Accidents Waiting to*

*Happen* (Stable Cable

Lab Co), *Gideon's Knot*

(Bridge Rep of Boston),

*Pacific Overtures* (Boston

University Theatre). Assisting

credits include: *To The Bone* (Cherry Lane Studio), *Subverted* (Shetler Studios),

*Sweeny Todd in Concert* at Lincoln Center. She works at the BAM Fisher

Building and has her MFA in Design from Boston University.



## KAREN BOYER (Costume Design)

designs and builds costumes out of her studio in

Brooklyn, New York, and is excited to be

collaborating once again with Kristine Haruna

Lee! Images of past work are at

[bevanandkaren.com](http://bevanandkaren.com).

## Thank You!

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

At the time I was beginning to envision this play, I was in my native hometown an hour outside of Tokyo during an exceptionally hot month in August. Back in New York, I had just seen a breathtaking exhibit about Afrofuturism at The Studio Museum of Harlem (*The Shadows Took Shape*), and with the newly formed cast of *Strange Worlds*, we had taken a trip to South Williamsburg's abandoned Domino Sugar Factory to see Karen Walker's giant, awe-inspiring Sphinx Woman with the controversial 'Black Mammy' face (*A Subtlety* or *The Marvelous Sugar Baby*). Having had these images fresh in my mind, of provocative movements from the depths of radical black subculture in the United States spanning both past and present, I was intent on creating a show with students (they are *all* students of color, and this is no coincidence) that reflected what it's like to be a young person contending with race and identity in America today. Then on August 9th, Michael Brown was shot dead by a local police officer in Ferguson, MO and his body lay in the hot sun for four hours. I heard about this case through a close friend of mine on a humid Tokyo evening, and though I was physically distanced from the news by land mass and oceans, it was palpable to me that this heinous act was proof of an ugly truth we were all trying to hide: that racism has always been well and alive in America. This horrific incident with Michael Brown wasn't the beginning of something, nor was it the end. It was a repetition brought to light. But it was this particular tragedy that was a trigger for both myself and the cast. A trigger because, this issue of 'race' which lay dormant within our heads, became instantaneously activated and alive in that moment.

Perhaps the most interesting conversation we had as a cast was the notion of a not-so-distant-future where the possibility of racial divide would be eliminated entirely. It seems that among Millennials, this is a popular theory. In a couple hundred years, we will all physically look alike, a hybrid race of people unified as one. However, what was inherently disturbing to me in this analysis of the future, was that at it's center, there was a belief that the erasure of race would mean the erasure of *racism* as well. As if the reason for racial inequality, what

was to be blamed here, was the actual color, tone and hue of our skin, rather than the reigning oppressive forces of white supremacy. I believe that throughout this process, it became clear to all of us that 'colorblindness' is not the answer to disempowering racism, rather, that it is only through our own awareness and retaliation of abusive and exploitative systems, that we could possibly begin to dismantle racism and create something new.

So how does Sun Ra play into all of this?

The prolific jazz musician and philosopher who was born Herman Poole Blount was known for his many eccentricities; dressing in Egyptian robes and planetary head pieces during the heyday of the East Village avant-garde art scene during the 1970's. He was indeed ahead of his time, and this is why. His mythic character, Sun Ra, hailed from a planetary consciousness that promoted self-actualization specifically *for people of color*. This was truly revolutionary at the time. He whole-heartedly believed that the narrow-mindedness of planet earth blinded the human race. And through his philosophy, Sun Ra (who was himself from Saturn) brought to his people a knowledge only accessed by travelling the spaceways. For myself, I understood the 'spaceways' as an inner, spiritual tunnel. A space infused by truths and memories. That it was only through this inward reflection and defining of one self *for* one self, that a person could escape the confines of racial stereotypes and the plethora of negative, disenfranchising media and images placed onto racialized bodies. Today, we live in a world where young black men are considered a threat to society just through their very existence. How then, are young Americans of color expected to survive? How do these very students fight this cycle of oppression?

*Strange Worlds* is an exploration of race and racism in the most immediate sense. The students have used their own body, their own memories, and their own inner knowledge as canvases. They have painted their hopes and fears of their future onto the blank canvas of theater. And what you are about to see is a performance full of color, honesty, and a different kind of truth entirely.

- Kristine Haruna Lee