Drama Department Fall Major

*Gem of the Ocean*

By August Wilson

Directed by Monica White Ndounou

October 27-29, November 3-5, 2016 at 8:00 pm

*Gem of the Ocean* is a powerful, soul-stirring drama by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, August Wilson. It tells the story of the price of freedom and reminds every generation of the grace of redemption and the beauty of love.

Dance Events

Parents Weekend Dance Showcase

Saturday, October 22, 6:00 pm

Dances at Noon

Friday, October 28, 2016, 12:00 pm

Fall Dance Concert

Friday & Saturday, November 18 & 19, 7:00 pm

Choreographer’s Showcase

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 pm

Student Theater Fall Majors

3Ps presents *Gnit*

By Will Eno

Directed by Peter V. Secrest

November 17-19 at 8:00 pm

Torn Ticket II presents *Fly by Night*

Directed by Corinne Thomas

Music Directed by Simone Allen

December 1-3 8:00 pm

Message from the President of 3Ps

3Ps, Tufts’ student-run theater group, would love to have you join us! We are a community built on peers teaching and learning from each other. We welcome anyone with an interest in theater, including acting, directing, writing, designing, painting, working with lights and sound, building, and more - no matter your skill level or experience! Please join us on Mondays at noon in Balch Arena Theater to learn more about Thanks, Becca MacLean, 3Ps President (www.tufts3ps.com)

Department News and Events

The Department of Drama and Dance was a proud co-sponsor of the Tisch College Distinguished Speaker Series *Doing Time in Education: The School-to-Prison Pipeline*, featuring Anna Deavere Smith. It was a unique event that blended performance and conversation with Anna Deavere Smith, playwright, professor, and actor who uses her singular brand of theater to highlight issues of community, character, and diversity in America. Several Drama and Dance students and faculty were also included in a special roundtable discussion prior to the university-wide event.

Professor Monica White Ndounou participated in a public conversation with director, performer, and playwright Ruben Santiago-Hudson, known for his work in *Lackawanna Blues*, *Selma*, and *Castle*. The discussion focused on Mr. Santiago-Hudson’s workshop with the cast of the fall production of *Gem of the Ocean*, as well as his experiences as a theatrical artist and his insights into the works of August Wilson.

The Department of Drama and Dance hosted a university-wide performance reflecting upon the tragedy of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. *After Orlando* provided community members with a space to create material about Orlando, gun violence, LGBTQ issues, community and survival and the current state of the world. Readings were directed by Director of Graduate Studies Noe Montez and performances curated by Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor Kareem Khubchandani. This performance was staged in conjunction with Missing Bolts Productions & No Passport Theatre and co-sponsored and supported by the Latino Center, LGBT Center, Latino Studies, Africana Center, Asian American Center, Community Health, and University Chaplaincy.

Fall Dance Events will feature master classes and performances, including a contact improv workshop with Boston Jammer Olivier Besson on October 28 and the beginning of our fourth season of Dances at Noon, featuring works by Boston area dance artists. We are looking forward to our Fall Dance Concert which will feature an original work by Canadian guest artist, Heather Stewart, and concert artistic director, Daniel McCusker and a raucous conclusion to the semester with the Dance MashUp, featuring performances by students from Dance Program courses such as Hip Hop Fusion, Afro-Haitian Dance, and Folk Dance.

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New Faculty

Welcome to Kareem Khubchandani, the Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor teaching the intersections of queer studies and performance studies. His research and teaching interests include dance studies, queer nightlife, South Asian diaspora, global queer politics, performance ethnography, critical race studies, masculinity and femininity, and drag. Kareem serves as the Vice President for Advocacy, and was previously the LGBTQ Conference Planner for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. He is currently working on a book project titled *Ishstyle: Improvising Gay South Asian Nightlife*, a performance ethnography of gay nightlife spaces in Bangalore and Chicago.

Lecturer in Costume Production and Technology Kendra Bell Reddington has created costumes for Tony Award-winning and international designers. Kendra holds a BFA in Studio Art from Millikin University and a MFA in Theatrical Design from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers. She received an Elliot Norton Award for *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, a New York Musical Theater Festival Award for *Le Cabaret Grimm*, as well as the American College Theater Festival Award for Excellence in Costume Execution.

Dance Lecturer Jun Kuribayashi premiered professionally with Momix and in 2004, joined Pilobolus Dance Theater, touring as a dancer, Dance Captain, and an Artistic Associate until 2015. Kuribayashi has collaborated with illusionists Penn + Teller, illustrator Art Spiegelman, juggler Michael Moschen, choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, movie director Trish Sie and Grammy award recipient OK Go. He now directs his own artistic + movement consulting company, Hybridmotion, where he mentors, trains, and choreographs movers from various walks of life.

Dance Lecturer Jennifer Lustig has performed continuously in the Boston area since 2005, primarily with Contrapose Dance, EgoArt, Inc. and most recently Jo-Mé Dance. She has recently been named Assistant Director of The Movement Project in Ashland, MA.

Dance Lecturer Jenny Oliver is on faculty at the Dance Complex. In 2013, she began traveling to Haiti to teach dance and continues to support the progress of dance there by helping local artists develop artistic endeavors. Her artistic contributions have been recognized by the International Dance Council (CID) based in Paris.

Dance Lecturer Ruka White received her training with Miami City Ballet and was a dancer in the training company. Upon graduating from the Dillard School of the Arts, he obtained a B.F.A and an M.F.A in Dance from Florida State University and Hollins University; respectively. He is an acclaimed national/ international dancer, having performed with companies such as: Dayton Contemporary; Philadanco; Armitage GONE!; and the Limon Dance Company.

For more information about our program, news and upcoming events, please visit our website or Facebook page!

Faculty News

Professor Natalya Baldyga had an essay accepted for publication in *Theatre Survey*. She also worked on the first draft of her new translation of *The King Stag*, Carlo Gozzi’s eighteenth-century comedy that she is adapting and directing at Tufts this winter. This fall, she is looking forward to presenting at the annual conference of the American Society for Theatre Research. This summer she directed a production of Sarah Ruhl’s *Orlando* for the Stonington Opera House in Stonington, Maine, in collaboration with some wonderful Drama and Dance colleagues (Danny McCusker, Ted Simpson, and Brian Lilienthal).

Movement returned to the Tufts in Talloires Summer Program in France this summer, where Dance Program Director, Renata Celichowska, had students performing in the Tufts Priory, along Lake Annecy, and in the village of Talloires as part of the Dance Movement & Creative Process course.

Professor Barbara Wallace Grossman had a busy and productive summer. She successfully submitted a proposal (“From FringeNYC to Broadway—Urinetown: The Musical”) to ASTR’s musical theatre working group and participated in a CELT Course Design Institute at Tufts. She worked hard on behalf of the Massachusetts Cultural Council to help override the Governor’s veto of arts funding for the coming year. She also recorded a CD with her choir, Kol Emanuel.

Senior Lecturer and Head of Dance Performance, Daniel McCusker, continued his creative work with director and Tufts colleague, Natalya Baldyga on her production of *Orlando* for Opera House Arts in Stonington ME. He has recently been identified as a finalist for a Choreography Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Professor Noe Montez was elected as the Executive Committee Representative to the Committee on Conferences for the American Society of Theatre Research. He was also appointed as Director of Graduate Studies for Tufts Department of Drama and Dance.

In July 2016, Department Chair, Professor Heather Nathans, had the pleasure of participating in a roundtable on the musical *Hamilton* at the annual SHEAR Conference that was then broadcast on C-SPAN. She completed a new essay, “Nation and Ethnicity in American Performance and Theater” for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*, as well as a forthcoming article in the *Journal of the Early Republic*. She also presented for two conference sessions at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference, and taught as part of the Harvard Mellon Summer institute.

Fletcher Professor of Oratory Laurence Senelick was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. He was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of *Early Popular Visual Culture*. After thirty years as Director of Graduate Studies in Drama, Prof. Senelick stepped down and handed the mantle to Professor Noe Montez. He has the academic year 2016-17 off as a combination sabbatical and research semester, and is putting the finishing touches on his book on Offenbach’s cultural influence.

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