

MAINSTAGE SEASON 2016-17

AS YOU LIKE IT

OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 5

SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY WENDI WEBER

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 10

STUDIO 404

BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY

DIRECTED BY ASHTON BYRUM

PEER GYNT

FEBRUARY 8-18

STUDIO 404

WRITTEN BY HENRIK IBSEN

DIRECTED BY JEFF GINSBERG

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

MARCH 8-18

SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE

BOOK AND LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN

DIRECTED BY DAVID WOOLLEY

FEFU AND HER FRIENDS

APRIL 19-29

STUDIO 404

WRITTEN BY MARIA IRENE FORNES

DIRECTED BY BRIAN SHAW

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO
colum.edu/theatre

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Once on this Island

BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 10, 2016



Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 10, 2016

STUDIO 404

BOOK AND LYRICS LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC STEPHEN FLAHERTY

MUSICAL DIRECTION PHIL CALDWELL

CHOREOGRAPHY MICHAEL GEORGE

MARIAH MORRIS

DIRECTION AND ADDITIONAL MUSICAL STAGING ASHTON BYRUM

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER NICHOLAS BADER

STORYTELLERS

TI MOUNE SHANTEL CRIBBS

LITTLE TI MOUNE/GIRL JIGI FABULOUS

AGWE JERMAINE ROBINSON, JR.

ASAKA DE'JAH PERKINS

ERZULIE NATALIE SAVOY

PAPA GE MARVIN MALONE II

DANIEL BRIAN JACKSON

TONTON JULIAN BRAXTON GEORGE

MAMA EURALIE DEZHANE ROUSE

ARMAND DAVON SUTTLES

ANDREA AALON SMITH

ENSEMBLE

D'ZHARI BOLDEN MICHAEL GEORGE

IZAIAH HARRIS MARIAH MORRIS

JUWON PERRY JORDAN REEDER

COMING UP NEXT

Peer Gynt

FEBRUARY 8–18

STUDIO 404



PRODUCTION STAFF

MAINSTAGE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	JOHN GREEN
DIRECTOR OF THEATER FACILITIES	MARY BADGER
VOCAL COACH	CATHERINE SLADE
SCENIC DESIGN ADVISOR	JACKIE PENROD
STAGE MANAGER ADVISOR	NYKOL DEDREU
MUSIC DIRECTOR ADVISOR	ANDRA VELIS SIMON
LIGHTING DESIGN ADVISOR	HEATHER GILBERT
LIGHTING TECH SUPERVISOR	MARC CHEVALIER
MASTER CARPENTER	MICK THOMASSON
COSTUME DESIGN ADVISOR	FRANCES MAGGIO
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER	PATTI ROEDER
COSTUME SHOP FOREMAN	TOM KEIFFER
MAKEUP ADVISOR	GLENESE HAND
PROPERTY MASTER	GRANT SABIN
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY	JOE SZADAY
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	MICHAEL MADDUX
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS	KASS FERLAND HAROUN SEAN MARBURGER
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR	EMMA SHEIKH
ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER	MARIAH PENDLETON
COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT	ANNALIESE VOCI
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER	JOURDIN BURGESS
ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER	JAMIE DAVIS
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	IZZY FRENCH KATIE BACHERT
ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIR	DAWN RENEE JONES
ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN	CLAIRE DOTY

ORCHESTRA

REEDS	DEREK WEIHOFEN DAN MEINHARDT
GUITAR	DALTON SEEBRUCK
PERCUSSION	TONY SCANDORA
KEYBOARDS	PHIL CALDWELL EMMA SHEIKH

UNDERSTUDIES

TI MOUNE	AALON SMITH MICHAEL GEORGE
DANIEL	JORDAN REEDER IZAIAH HARRIS
AGWE	JUWON PERRY
ASAKA	D'ZHARI BOLDEN
PAPA GE	JUWON PERRY
ERZULIE	D'ZHARI BOLDEN
MAMA EURALIE	MICHAEL GEORGE
TONTON JULIAN	JUWON PERRY
ARMAND	JORDAN REEDER
ANDREA	MARIAH MORRIS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

BY ASHTON BYRUM

Once On This Island, by Lynn Ahrens and Michael Flaherty, is based on the novel *My Love, My Love or The Peasant Girl* by Rosa Guy. A lush, Caribbean retelling of The Little Mermaid tale from the 1990–91 Broadway season, the story celebrates the notion of community in a joyous yet timely way. It's a love story set against the frame of race and skin tone as the defining trait for advantage and power (a truth still magnified today throughout our daily lives and political discourse).

As we near the end of the historic presidency of Barack Obama, our nation reels from a long and exhausting political season of division and the coded language of prejudice. But, it's been fascinating for our ensemble to explore the notion of a light-skinned man of color representing the traditional seat of privilege and entitlement. Our society has a lot of healing to do to unite as one community. Unsurprisingly, what heals this division in the show and hopefully in real life, is love, selfless love. Love can create and define a new community—love conquers all.

I've always liked the notion of a large community uniting to help raise a child: The concept of "it takes a village" reminds of us of the challenge of parenting and simply getting them to adulthood, but also of the love children and families can bring to our lives. As we watch them discover the world, making wishes big and small, we remember our younger selves and how alike we all are. This story proves once again that when we see ourselves in others, we become more understanding. Families, love, faith and joy are a part of the human condition and define all of our communities (we have more in common than not).

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't celebrate the unusual fact that our Theatre Department is able to produce this particular show and cast it as it was originally intended. At Columbia College Chicago, we're proud that our students reflect what the world looks like and our diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

THIS is why we tell the story.

DANIEL KNOEDLER (Scenic Designer) is a senior Theatre Design major from Mosinee, Wisconsin. He designed numerous sets (*How to Succeed in Business, Chicago, The Wizard of Oz* and *Nunsense*) for his local community theatre before transferring to Columbia in fall 2014. Since arriving on campus, Daniel has worked on directing projects (*My Sister in This House* and *Dr. Faustus*) and the NewStew Fresh Play prize (*In The Clearing*).

ANDY KLOUBEC (Lighting Designer) is a senior Theatre Design major concentrating in Lighting Design. Andy is proud to be designing his first musical, and sixth overall production at Columbia. Previous design credits include Columbia's *Fresh Ink Play Festival 2016; Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, directed by Max Colvill; and *I'm Full of B.S.: A Novel*, choreographed by Aaliyah Leonard.

BENJAMIN WITT (Costume Designer) is a senior BFA Theatre Design major with concentrations in lighting and costume design from Antioch, Illinois. Previous Columbia College Chicago costume design credits include *Baltimore Waltz* (dir. Joey Lubelfeld), *Sequence* (dir. Paulina Strayer), *24-Hour Play Festival* (dir. Stephanie Shaw) and *Audition!* (dir. Stephanie Shaw). Ben has also been the lighting designer for the six haunted houses at Six Flags Great America.

LIANA PROKOPIS (Makeup Designer) is a senior Theatre Design student from Chicago with a passion for makeup and costumes. Previous Columbia College Chicago credits include Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (costumes), *Love and Information* (costumes) and *Doctor Faustus* (makeup). Liana plans to continue working in Chicago, pursuing a career in both makeup and costumes.

MIKAYLA DAVIS (Makeup Designer) is a senior Theatre major from Sacramento. This is her first Mainstage production at Columbia College Chicago.

AMANDA ZIEGLER (Sound Designer) is a senior Technical Theatre major from Berwyn, Illinois. Recent Columbia College Chicago productions include, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, *Blues for An Alabama Sky*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Dog Sees God* and *Into the Woods*.

NICHOLAS BADER (Production Stage Manager) is a junior Stage Management major from Ohio. Previous Columbia College Chicago credits include assistant stage management for *M. Butterfly*, *24 Hour Play Fest* and *Women on the Verge...*. Nicholas recently completed a contract at Summer Repertory Theatre Festival in California, working as the assistant stage manager on *Rock of Ages*, *Nice Work If You Can...*, and stage managed the SRT 4th Annual Cabaret.

ASHTON BYRUM (Director) is an associate professor and a coordinator of the Musical Theatre Performance program at Columbia College Chicago. This past summer, he directed *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois and *Bye Bye Birdie* for the Wilmette Starlight Theatre. Other recent projects include *[title of show]* and *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Open Door Rep), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Wilmette Starlight Theatre) and *Rent, Victor/Victoria, Oklahoma!* and many new student and senior showcases at Columbia. He earned his MFA in Directing from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). As an actor, Mr. Byrum's Broadway and National Tour credits include *The Producers, A Christmas Carol, Grease!, Will Rogers Follies, Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Fair Lady* (Europe). Regional Theatre work includes: Denver Center Theatre Company, Paper Mill Playhouse (New Jersey), Ogunquit Playhouse (Maine), Arkansas Rep, Westchester Broadway Theatre (New York), Cape Playhouse (Massachusetts), The Little Theatre on the Square, Jupiter Theatre (Florida), Flat Rock Playhouse (North Carolina), and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

PHIL CALDWELL (Musical Director) is an adjunct faculty member and piano accompanist in the Theatre Department at Columbia College Chicago and at the Sherwood Community Music School. Other music directing credits at Columbia include *The Drowsy Chaperone, Oklahoma!, Hecuba* and *Splendor*. Phil has worked as a music director and performer at American Theater Company, Annoyance Theatre, Davenport's Cabaret, Emerald City Theatre Company, the Goodman Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions, Victory Gardens and for the national touring company of The Second City.

MICHAEL GEORGE (Choreographer; *Storyteller; u/s Ti Moune, Mama Euralie*) is a senior Acting major. This is her third Mainstage production at Columbia College Chicago and the first time she's co-choreographing a full production. Previous Columbia productions include *Oklahoma!* and *Death and a King's Horseman* as an ensemble member. Although her concentration is acting, she loves dancing and singing and plans to do so on Broadway in the near future.

MARIAH MORRIS (Choreographer; *Storyteller; u/s Andrea*) is a senior Acting major from Los Angeles, where she trained with the Debbie Allen Dance Academy for 12 years. In the last three years she has performed in a number of Columbia College Chicago productions including *The 90s Show, Columbia's Got Talent, Under The Rug, Love and Information* and *Oklahoma!* Mariah has also appeared as a soloist dancer on Chicago's hit TV show, *Empire*.

TIME AND PLACE

HAITI: A PEASANT VILLAGE AND THE BIG CITY, SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

"WE DANCE"	STORYTELLERS
"ONE SMALL GIRL"	MAMA EURALIE, TONTON JULIAN, LITTLE TI MOUNE, STORYTELLERS
"WAITING FOR LIFE"	TI MOUNE AND STORYTELLERS
"AND THE GODS HEARD HER PRAYER"	ASAKA, AGWE, PAPA GE AND ERZULIE
"RAIN"	AGWE AND STORYTELLERS
"PRAY"	TI MOUNE, TONTON JULIAN, MAMA EURALIE, GUARD, STORYTELLERS
"FOREVER YOURS"	TI MOUNE, DANIEL AND PAPA GE
"THE SAD TALE OF THE BEAUXHOMMES"	ARMAND AND STORYTELLERS
"TI MOUNE"	MAMA EURALIE, TONTON JULIAN AND TI MOUNE
"MAMA WILL PROVIDE"	ASAKA AND STORYTELLERS
REPRISE: "WAITING FOR LIFE"	TI MOUNE
"SOME SAY"	STORYTELLERS
"THE HUMAN HEART"	ERZULIE AND STORYTELLERS
REPRISE: "PRAY"	STORYTELLERS
"SOME GIRLS"	DANIEL
"THE BALL"	ANDREA, DANIEL, TI MOUNE AND STORYTELLERS
REPRISE: "FOREVER YOURS"	PAPA GE, TI MOUNE, ERZULIE AND STORYTELLERS
"A PART OF US"	MAMA EURALIE, LITTLE TI MOUNE, TONTON JULIAN AND STORYTELLERS
"WHY WE TELL THE STORY"	STORYTELLERS

D'ZHARI BOLDEN (*Storyteller; u/s Erzulie, Asaka*) is a senior from Chicago pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Contemporary Urban and Popular Music. Recent stage credits include Ensemble in *In the Heights* (SLATE Theatre), Dragon in *Shrek the Musical* (Curtain Call Theatre) and Serena in *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Phillip Lynch Theatre). She is a vocalist in Columbia's R&B Showcase Ensemble, Fusion Ensemble, and Recording and Performance Ensemble.

SHANTEL CRIBBS (*Ti Moune*) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre Performance student from Clinton Township, Michigan. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Blues for an Alabama Sky* directed by Andrea J. Dymond and *Its All Happening* directed by Ashton Byrum. Shantel interned at the Mosaic Broadway Musical Theatre Intensive program with Renae Baker, Mara Newberry Greer and Eric Gutman.

JIGI FABULOUS (*Little Ti Moune/Girl*) is 8 years old, in second grade and lives where the wild things are. She's been performing since the age of 4. Her recent roles include Young Kangaroo in *Seussical* (Beverly Theatre Guild), *Scuttle* in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (The Drama Group) and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* (Flossmoor Montessori School).

BRAXTON J. GEORGE (*Tonton Julian*) is a freshmen Acting major from Las Vegas. This is his first production at Columbia College Chicago. He is a professional wrestler, a career he started five years ago in Las Vegas. Braxton played the role of Usnavi in *In the Heights*, and was a member of the company in *The Addams Family*, both at Patriot Theatre in Las Vegas.

IZAIHAH HARRIS (*Storyteller; u/s Daniel*) is a second year BA Musical Theatre major. Recent roles include Seaweed in *Hairspray!*, Freddy Rodriguez in *Working*, Robert in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Bobby in *Urinetown the Musical*. Izaiah is currently teaching tap dance on the South Side of Chicago.

BRIAN JACKSON (*Daniel*) is a freshman BFA Musical Theatre Performance major from Bowie, Maryland. Prior to college, he performed in *Peter Pan* as Peter, in *Beauty and the Beast* as The Beast, in *The Wizard of Oz* as the Scarecrow and in *A Winter's Tale* as Leontes. This is his first Mainstage production.

MARVIN MALONE II (*Papa Ge*) is a Musical Theatre Performance major from Cleveland, Ohio, where he studied voice at The Cleveland Music Settlement. Marvin's Columbia credits include Malik in *Women on the Verge...* and Radames in *Aida*. He is a regular performer at The

Canton Comic Opera Company and recently stage managed his first production, *The Colored Museum*. Be sure to visit MarvinMalone.com.

DE'JAH PERKINS (*Asaka*) is a junior Musical Theatre major from Chicago. Some favorite performance credits include SLATE Theatre's *Company* (Marta) and *In the Heights* (Daniela), and Columbia College Chicago's Mainstage productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Trix) and *Oklahoma!* (Aunt Eller).

JUWON TYREL PERRY (*Storyteller/Dancer; u/s Agwe, Ton Ton, and Papa Ge*) is a freshman Musical Theatre major from Osceola, Arkansas. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Twentysomething: A Cabaret* directed by Madison Kennedy.

JORDAN REEDER (*Storyteller; u/s Daniel, Armand*) is a BFA Musical Theatre freshman from Kansas, and is making his debut on Columbia's Mainstage. During Jordan's senior year of high school he played Sebastien in *The Little Mermaid*, Ren in *Footloose* and Robertson Ay in *Mary Poppins*.

JERMAINE ROBINSON, JR. (*Agwe*) is a freshman from St. Petersburg, Florida, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre Performance. *Once on This Island* is his Columbia College Chicago debut. Previous performances include *In The Heights* at Gibbs High School and *Twilight: Los Angeles* at Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg, Florida.

DEZHANE "DIDI" ROUSE (*Mama Euralie*) is a senior Acting major from Chicago. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Doubt: A Parable*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Land Of The Free*, and *Under the Rug* presented by Artist Melting Pot Ensemble.

NATALIE SAVOY (*Erzulie*) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Lake Charles, Louisiana. She was last seen in Columbia College Chicago's Mainstage production *Death and the King's Horseman* (Dancer/Woman of the Village) and Refugee Theatre Project's *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Kyra/u.s Nadia).

AALON SMITH (*Andrea; u/s Ti Moune*) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Performance major from Denver. She was most recently seen in Artist Melting Pot Ensembles production of *Under the Rug* (Featured Soloist), and Columbia College Chicago's Mainstage production of *Death and a King's Horseman* (Bride/Dancer).

DAVON SUTTLES (*Armand*) is a junior BA Musical Theatre major from Minneapolis, where he performed in *Shrek* and *Bare* at the Children's Theatre Company. Columbia College Chicago shows include *No Voice: Equality in a Time of Conflict*.

Once On This Island is a musical adaptation of Rosa Guy's book *My Love, My Love, or The Peasant Girl*. With music by Stephen Flaherty and a book by Lynn Ahrens, the musical debuted on Broadway in 1990. The show has been relatively successful, with three official cast recordings. The story is a loose Caribbean retelling of *The Little Mermaid* tale. On an island in the French Antilles, there is a strong gap between the rich and poor. The peasants, alienated because of their darker skin, labor and pray to What is Once On This Island about? Our story takes place on Haiti during the early 20th century, where the populace is heavily segregated between the darker-skinned peasants who struggle for a living, and the lighter-skinned rich people, descendants of the white plantation owners and their slaves. A young girl, Ti Moune (played by newcomer Hailey Kilgore) is swept away from her village by a sudden flash flood, and the island gods save her life, fore-telling that she has an important destiny.Â Once On This Island will be produced by Ken Davenport (*Spring Awakening*, *It's Only a Play*) and directed by Michael Arden (*Spring Awakening*) when it arrives on Broadway in 2017. Additional Information. Dates. See more of *Once On This Island* Broadway on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of *Once On This Island* Broadway on Facebook. Log In. Forgotten account?Â It was a wildcard pick for me and I'm so thankful I went (twice - a second performance was required on the last day of my holiday). It's a beautiful, deeply moving experience with an incredible ensemble. Thank you so much to everyone involved.