MAINSTAGE SEASON 2016–17

AS YOU LIKE IT  
OCTOBER 26–NOVEMBER 5
SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE
WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY WENDI WEBER

ONE 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
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

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
PRODUCTION STAFF

MAINTAGE 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  GLENSESE 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  ANNALEISE 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 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 that 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 Klobeck (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 Fest (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 *Splendora*. 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 Kings 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**

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<td>WHY WE TELL THE STORY</td>
<td>STORYTELLERS</td>
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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.

IZIAH 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. Iziaiah 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 Refuge 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.