

Front Page News

Spring Dance Concert directed by Vickie Diebold
Dart Auditorium / April 8-10, 2016

The Golden Age of Broadway

Musical Theatre Scenes directed by Kelly Stuibler-Clark
Black Box Theatre / April 15-16, 2016

Rhinoceros

By Eugene Ionesco, directed by John Lennox
Black Box Theatre / May 6-7, 2016

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www.lcc.edu/showinfo



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XTIGONE

By Nambi E. Kelley

MARCH 31 - APRIL 3, 2016
ARENA THEATRE



Produced by special by special arrangement with YouthPLAYS
(www.YouthPLAYS.com).

Xtigone premiered at African American Shakespeare Company
(San Francisco, CA), director Rhodessa Jones.

MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

STUDENT PRODUCTION SERIES

Closer

by Patrick Marber

Directed by
Grace Hinkley and Elijah El

Four lives intertwine over the course of four and a half years in this densely plotted, stinging look at modern love and betrayal. Dan, an obituary writer, Alice, a stripper, Anna, a photographer and Larry, a dermatologist all meet through interesting circumstances. This sets up a series of pass-the-lover scenes in which this quartet struggles to find intimacy but can't seem to get closer.

Studio 60 Theatre

April 8-9 @ 8:00pm & April 10 @ 2:00pm

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228 Museum Drive, across from the Lansing Center



Thriller by
Fred Knott
Directed by
Rita Deibler

WAIT UNTIL DARK

A blind woman is trapped in her apartment, terrorized by thugs. Suspense builds toward an electrifying final scene.

March 31- April 3 & 7-10, 2016
7 pm Thur; 8 pm Fri/Sat; 2 pm Sun
\$15/\$12 • BARGAIN THURSDAYS: \$10/\$8

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XTIGONE

By Nambi E. Kelley

Directed & Choreographed by
Dr. Shondrika Moss-Bouldin

CAST

Tigs	JENISE COOK
Tea Flake	JACQUESE STEELE
Marcellus	GREG HUNTER*
Fay	KRISTY ALLEN*
Beau	ELIJAH NOBLE EL
E-Mem	EVAN PHILLIPS
Ernesto	JACOB COVERT
Izzy & Le Roi	TERIAH FLEMING
Spirit	ALL CAST
Old Blind Woman	KATHRYN STAHL*
Gangs	ALL CAST
Chocolate Boy/Chorus 1 & Spirit (speaking)	BONNIE BAIRLEY
Chorus 2	EMMA CALLIS
Brace/Chorus 3	KATELYN HODGE
Chorus 4	CARSON KILLMAR

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

.....
Xtigone will run approximately 1 hours and 40 minutes without an intermission
.....

WHEN ENTERING THE THEATRE:

Please turn off cell phones, mobile devices, alarm watches and anything that makes noise. The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Post-Show Discussion on Thursday, March 31, 2016 (Following the Performance)
Director Pre-Show Discussion Sunday, April 3, 2016 @ 1:15 PM
.....

Steven & Barbara Bursian
James Campana
Gregory Checketts
Leland & Joella Cogan
John Demeo
Charles & Betty Downs
Stephen Esquith &
Christine Worland
George & Sally Evalt
Jason & Tiffany Evans
Jovon & Sheila Everett
Joseph & Susan Farrar
Sam & Liz Febba
Robert & Michelle Fish
Arlene Friedland
William & Ruth Gruhn
Kurt & Barbara Guter
Dean & Nancy Haney
Birte Hansen
John & Judy Hartman
Fred & Melody Hasselback
Lawrence & Mary Hennessey
Lee Henry
Charles & Nadean Hillary
Elinor M. Holbrook
Allan & Sheila Holody
Gerald & Karen Jennings
David & Christine Kaye
Stephen Kiersey
Robert & Amy Kilbridge
Larry & Katherine King
William & Susan King
Benjamin & Janice Kinsey
Carl Kline
Doug Kolen
Elaine Kritselis
Nell Kuhnmuench &
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Roger Harris
Bruce Helmer
Eleanor Heusner
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Matthew Payok
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Michael & Margo Kinservik
John Kloswick
Margaret Kuhlmann
Jennifer Lane
Christopher Lemmon &
Amy Smitter
Elizabeth Lepak
Ted & Florence Levy
Karen Lewis
Karen Litos
Ruth Magen
Stephen & Heidi Mandt
Janice Mernitz
Bruce Mortimer &
Kristine Parnell
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DR. SHONDIKA MOSS-BOULDIN—DIRECTOR



Dr. Shondrika Moss-Bouldin, Assistant Professor of Global Diversity: Acting and Directing is excited to present *Xtigone* to the MSU community. In addition to her position in the Department of Theatre, she is the proud co-founder of her own multi-media production company (www.scworks.tv) based out of Atlanta and Los Angeles. She has earned all of her degrees from Northwestern University (B.A., M.A., PhD). Dr. Moss-Bouldin received a Fulbright in 2006 to study in South Africa and has taught and lectured at several

universities such as Northwestern University, CUNY, DePaul University, and Spelman College. Some of her previous artistic and consultant work has been with Disney Theatrical Productions, The Kennedy Center, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company, Creative Arts Team, Chicago Shakespeare, The National Black Arts Festival, and The National Black Theatre Festival. She has directed, produced, and choreographed, in New York City (Off Broadway), Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, and Atlanta. She will direct the premiere of *Blue Butterfly: The Black Ballerina* in Atlanta this June.

Dr. Moss-Bouldin would like to dedicate this performance to her family for their unconditional love and support.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager **Gabrielle Lossia**
Assistant Stage Managers **Maxie Froelicher, Rachel Beck**
Dramaturg **Greg Hunter***
Additional Choreography **The Cast of Xtigone**
Set/Costume Design **Peter Verhaeghe***
Lighting/Sound Design **Jim Peters**
Audio Engineer **Hernando Claros***
Media Design **Alison Dobbins**
Media Creator **Izak Gracy**
Lighting Board Operator **Maxie Froelicher**
Sound and Media Board Operator **Joseph Lancour**
Deck Crew Chief **Samira Mashni**

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

590

There have been **590** children between the ages of twelve and seventeen killed and/or injured by gun violence and **112** children between the ages of zero and eleven that have been killed and/or injured by gun violence this year in our country, according to www.gunviolencearchive.org. These stats only include **77** days of this year. By the time you are reading this, the numbers will have increased. Violence in our country has increased, and unfortunately, so has hatred. Just a few weeks ago, we witnessed several eruptions of violence and hatred in our country at political events. What is more shocking is to see some Americans justify these acts, or the refusal for leaders of our country to not take responsibility for these actions. Who will unearth the truth? Who will speak out against injustice? Who will not be afraid to take a stand against hatred and violence?

Xtigone shows us that we have the right and moral obligation to stand up for what is right, what is just, even if we are the only ones that have the courage to do so. Tigs' warrior spirit and deep conviction of moral/spiritual law translate beyond time.

Xtigone takes us on a journey of numerous paths: the consequences of gun violence, self-discovery, forgiveness, spiritual awakening, and hidden truths. During this journey, *Xtigone* unearths the truth about this critical question: if all lives truly mattered, why do we have to say it?

- Dr. Shondrika Moss-Bouldin

SPECIAL THANKS

Nambi E. Kelley, Trey Hemingway, the MSU Department of Theatre, the Cast, the Stage Management and the Production Team

112

77

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Millie (Grand Blanc Auditorium). She would like to thank her parents, best friend Aarika, and loving boyfriend Jeffrey for their unconditional support and understanding during the late nights and long hours.

MAXIE FROELICHER (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Midland, MI; Sophomore BA Theatre, Minor in Dance and Arts & Cultural Management. Maxie is excited to be a part of this show for his first Stage Management experience. This is his second DOT show, having last worked on *Stage Door*.


RACHEL BECK (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Portage, MI; Sophomore BFA Acting. *Xtigone* is the first show she has

worked on as an Assistant Stage Manager at MSU. She feels very blessed to be working with such a skilled cast and crew. Rachel was last seen as Madeline in Theatre2Film's *Sorta Late* and as Rachel in *Baltimore*.

PETER VERHAEGHE (*Technical Coordinator*) Swartz Creek, MI; 1st Year MFA Design Candidate. Peter received his BA in Theatre at Albion College and has worked professionally as a Properties Master at the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer State Park, SD and as a Properties Artisan at the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster, OH. He most recently designed the scenic elements for MSU's production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

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Directed by Joey Albright

Featuring:
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March 31 - May 1, 2016



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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

KATELYN HODGE (*Brace/Chorus*) Clawson, MI; Sophomore BFA Acting. Welcome to the city! Some of Katelyn's favorite credits include *For Tonight* (Mirella understudy), *Little Women* (Jo March) and *Hair* (Crissy) at MSU. She would love to thank her friends and family for their constant support, especially this cast for their upbeat nature.

GREG HUNTER (*Marcellus*) Buford, GA; 1st Year MFA Acting Candidate. Greg received a BA in theatre from Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. His recent credits include *And Away We Go* (MSU), *For Tonight* (MSU ĩmáGen), *RENT* (Actor's Express), and staged readings of *The Bald Soprano* and *A Misunderstanding* (Williamston Theatre). Greg is so honored to be a part of such a beautiful story as *Xtigone*, and would like to thank the faculty of Michigan State University for allowing him to have the opportunity to tell this story. Enjoy the show!
www.greg-hunter.wix.com/actor

CARSON KILLMAR (*Chorus*) Harrison Twp. MI; Freshman BFA Acting. Carson is thrilled to be getting on the stage for the first time at Michigan State University after stage managing *And Away We Go* earlier in the semester. She is so excited to bring the story of *Xtigone* to life and spread such an important message.

EVAN PHILLIPS (*E-Mem*) Belleville, MI; Junior BFA Acting. *Xtigone* is Evan's second show as a first year junior at Michigan State University. He is very ecstatic to have been a part of such a

powerful and moving show with an incredibly talented and creative group of people. Evan would like to thank all of his friends and family for the support and encouragement that they have given him.

KATHRYN STAHL (*Old Blind Woman, Chorus*) Algona, WA; 1st Year MFA Acting Candidate. Kathryn earned her Performance BFA and Theatre Education certificate from Central Washington University. Recent performance credits include *Stage Door* (MSU), *Charlotte's Web* (Omaha Theatre Company), *Ramona Quimby* (OTC) and staged readings of *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Great Plains Theatre Conference) and *100 Saints You Should Know* (MSU). She is grateful for the opportunities to grow as an artist here at MSU.

JACQUESE STEELE (*Tea Flake*) Kalamazoo, MI; Senior BFA Acting. JacQuese, talented singer, songwriter, actress was last seen in MSU's production of *Legally Blonde*. She also has an extensive list of performance credits including the opening act for music industry artists such as Bobby V (Valentino), E-40, Verse Simmonds, and R&B singer Joe. JacQuese is excited to be part of the great cast of *Xtigone*.

GABRIELLE LOSSIA (*Stage Manager*) Grand Blanc, MI; Senior BA Theatre & BA Business. Gabby has most recently assistant stage managed *For Tonight* (MSU) and *Macbeth* (MSU). She has also stage managed for the *Young Playwrights Festival* (MSU). You can also see her choreography work during *Grease* (MSU) and *Thoroughly Modern*

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Xtigone, a modern reimagining of the Greek classic *Antigone* by Sophocles, was written by Chicago native Nambi E. Kelley. Through the application of Greek theatre's clear-cut morality and strong sense of ethical values, she works to craft a specific stance on the current crisis of gang violence in and political power in Chicago. Kelley wrote this play "For all the children who've been aborted by gun violence". The characters embody a melting pot of ethnicities and social backgrounds that all seek to explore the human condition and how it responds to gang activity, morality, and death.

Kelley has had a long career as an artist, earning her BFA from DePaul University and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College. She has performed in many theatres including the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, and many others. She has also been commissioned to adapt and write plays in places all over the U.S. as well as Italy and Singapore. Her resume is quite representative of the work that she strives to create, commenting on the African American condition. Many of her shows parallel the struggles of African Americans when it comes to familial conflicts, the search for love and acceptance, and social justice. *Xtigone* is her personal take of the violent state of the Chicago community, especially with the trend of gun and gang violence. Incorporating actual sights, sounds, and experiences from her time living in Chicago, she infuses the story with African American culture, crafting hip-hop and poetic nuances, allowing for creative vocal and physical interpretation from the actors.

Xtigone has a very young production history, first premiering at the African American Shakespeare Company in San Francisco, and then in Chicago at the Danztheatre Ensemble. Through Michigan State University's new Global Diversity Project initiative, this play was chosen as an opportunity to explore an updated representation of Greek characters through the lens of devised theatre; a task that is new to the MSU Department of Theatre. With such a diverse cast, production team and unique story, this production is one that will leave a definitive and heartfelt mark on the list of shows MSU has produced and will pave the way for many more productions to come.

- Greg Hunter

FACULTY MENTORS

Costume Shop Supervisor Angela Wendelberger
 Stage Management..... Stef Din
 Dramaturgy Dan Smith
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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
FOT "SCRIPT CLASS"
City of East Lansing @ Hannah Center**

Prime Time

The Friends of Theatre & Department of Theatre are in our 2nd year of presenting a **Script Class** for certain MSU Theatre shows.

Our next class is for **Grease** on April 14 and April 28, 2016 from 3:00-5:00pm. Cost (includes a copy of the script and a show ticket!)

\$35 (Prime Time members) and \$40 (non-members)

PLEASE CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FOR INFO: (517) 355-6690

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We are deeply grateful to all of our patrons who donate to the Department of Theatre. There are several different funds available if you would like to earmark your donation for a special purpose or to honor an individual. Thank you!

- Area of Greatest Need in the Department of Theatre [AE10]
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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

KRISTY ALLEN (*Fay*) Dallas, TX; 1st Year MFA Acting Candidate. Kristy received her MBA from Florida A&M University and Teaching Certificate from Texas State Board of Educators. Kristy's recent performance credits include *Baltimore* by Kirsten Greenidge, *The Summer Circle* by Rob Roznowski, and staged reading *100 Saints You Should Know* by Kate Fodor for the 10th Year Anniversary Celebration of the Renegade Theatre Festival. Writing credits include *The Decision*, *The Deliverer*, *The Dilemma*, a trilogy co-written and directed by Deborah Curry.

BONNIE BAIRLEY (*Spirit/Chocolate Boy/Chorus*) Chelsea, MI; Junior BFA Acting. Bonnie is honored to be performing in a show that is deeply rooted and reflected in our current culture and society. After performing in MSU's *Hair*, theatre for social change and protest spoke to her soul. Her other MSU credits include Asst. Choreographer for *Grease*, Mrs. Shaw in *Stage Door*, Maud in *Midwinter*, and the role she is most proud of, teaching yoga to her community. "May we continually strive to choose love."

EMMA CALLIS (*Chorus*) East Lansing, MI; Sophomore BFA Acting. Emma is very excited to perform in this production of *Xtigone*. She was most recently seen in MSU's production of *For Tonight*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making such a rewarding experience, and her friends and family for their continued support.

JENISE COOK (*Tigs*) Detroit, MI; Senior, BFA Acting/BA IDS. Jenise is excited to culminate her career as a BFA with a

story so relevant to our time. Acting Credits: *Ghost the Musical*, *Hair*. Choreographing Credits: East Lansing High's *Legally Blonde*, Asst. Choreographer for MSU's *The December Project*. She looks forward to a career in teaching dance, movement, and theatre. Thanks to her family and friends for their love and support!

JACOB COVERT (*Ernesto/Chorus*) Coldwater, MI; Sophomore, BFA Acting. Jacob was last seen in the new musical *For Tonight* (Hayden Understudy/Chorus) and in *Hair* (Claude) here at Michigan State University. Jacob is thrilled to be part of such an innovative experience and beautiful piece of theatre that is *Xtigone*. He can't wait to share this story with others and hopes that this show has an impact on the audience similar to the impact it had on him.

ELIJAH NOBLE EL (*Beau*) Livonia, Michigan; Junior BFA Acting. Previous acting credits include *Stage Door*, *Macbeth*, and *60/50 Theatre Project*. Directing credits include *Closer*, co-directed with Grace Hinkley. He dedicates this show to Tyshawn Lee, a nine-year-old victim of Chicagoan gang violence. May you rest peacefully.

TERIAH FLEMING (*Izzy/LeRoi*) Kalamazoo, MI; Senior BFA Acting. Teriah's credits include *Carrie: The musical*, *Xanadu*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Sweet Mercy*. She is excited to share the work of this amazing ensemble with you all and thanks her family for their constant and unwavering support.