

the play's the thing

Granted—all the world's a stage. Brooklyn College certainly has its share and the curtain's going up! The spring semester has unbeatable bargain treats for audiences of all ages.

The Theater Department's last offering for the season is *A Piece of My Heart*, a prize-winning work by Shirley Lauro, based Keith Walker's book. *Heart* recounts the experiences of six American female nurses stationed in Vietnam. The play has been rocking the house around the country since its 1991 debut.

Lindsey Clinton-Kraack, the M.F.A. directing candidate who chose *Heart* in consultation with her faculty advisers, says she is "pro-military, antiwar" and comes from a military family. She intended the play as homage to her deceased father, who served in Vietnam, but *Heart's* significance increased during her recent pregnancy, which ended prematurely. In the hospital's newborn ICU, Clinton-Kraack had the opportunity to witness emergency care firsthand. Now she believes that the play, in the able hands of one male and six female actors—supported by other students and faculty from every single Theater Department program—will illustrate more than the code of honor and courage she set out to depict. "In this time when people have lost their jobs and health insurance," says Clinton-Kraack, "this play reminds us there are people in healthcare who will watch out for you. It doesn't matter who you are or where you are from."

"One of the strengths of the Theater Department," says Associate Professor Helen E. Richardson, "is to emphasize learning by doing. Students are prepared to be theater professionals through their classes. Then all that they have learned is brought together in the seven or eight productions we stage a year. Making theater" says Richardson, "helps them perfect their craft and practice ensemble skills that are so important in their work together."

The show runs from April 2–5 at the College's New Workshop Theater at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, and also at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$5. For reservations, call 718.951.5000, ext. 2768, or visit the Department of Theater webpage at <http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater>.

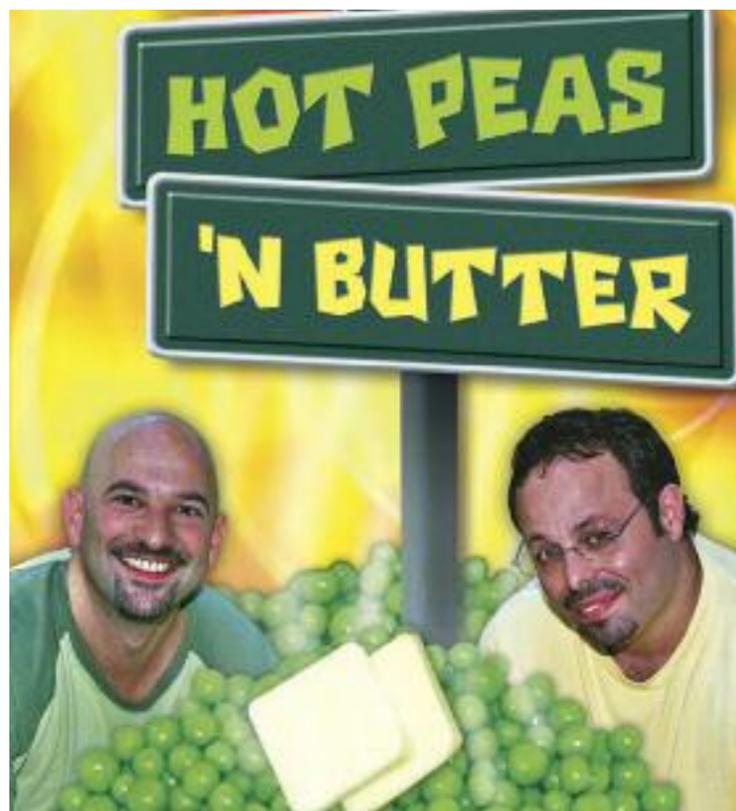
More courageous women will take the stage when this year's V-Day Committee stages the eleventh annual benefit performance of the *Vagina Monologues*, by Eve Ensler. The playwright, who harvested the material for her play from interviews with hundreds of women, says, "It slowly dawned on me that

nothing was more important than stopping violence toward women." A year after *Monologues* was first performed in 1996, Ensler founded a nonprofit organization, V-Day, which is now a movement with a website, www.vday.org, that engenders many avenues of activism, including performances of the *Monologues* at thousands of colleges and community venues worldwide.

Proceeds from the Brooklyn College V-Day performances will benefit agencies that combat violence against women. The cast, comprised entirely of women students, is drawn from a campus-wide casting call. On March 26 and 27, doors open at 5:45 p.m. for a 6 p.m. curtain in the Penthouse of the Student Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at the Brooklyn College Women's Center. For more information, contact Sonia Malik, by telephone, 718.951.5777, or by e-mail, smalik@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Who knows? One day you may visit the campus to see our performing arts alumni on stage at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts. The center has offered the community inexpensive star-studded shows for more than half a century. Its 2008–09 season is wrapping up with a bang.

Even if your kids hide peas under mashed potatoes, they'll love Hot Peas 'N Butter! This New York-based musical group, seen on the cable network Noggin, takes an interactive approach to contemporary multicultural music. Danny Lapidus and Francisco Cotto incorporate elements of jazz, R&B, folk, rock, and Afro-Caribbean in their exciting concerts. Bring the family on April 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6. *(continued on page 2)*



one of the band

One diploma wasn't enough for Brooklyn College junior Sarah Kuzma. When she moved to New York after completing a bachelor's degree in psychology at Boston University, she soon discovered that the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music was the place to realize a dream deferred.

A flutist from Sarasota, Florida, and former officer of her three-hundred member high school marching band, Sarah minored in music at B.U. When at age twenty, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, she stayed on track, got even more organized, and aced all her courses that semester. She moved to New York, first diploma in hand, only to discover that music no longer fit her busy work schedule. "It got to the point where the only music in my life was my iPod, and that wasn't good enough for me," she reports.

So Sarah picked up the flute again and enrolled as a music education major at the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. "Brooklyn College offers a classic conservatory education to students who can't afford Julliard," she says, "and it is small enough that all of your professors know your name. It feels like a family." But that's not all. The conservatory, Sarah notes, has "performance artists—who are professionally accomplished and amazing teachers—and students from all over the world."

Good musicianship requires a lot of practice, even if you do not want to get to Carnegie Hall. Sarah, who loves to sing, was in the Conservatory Chorus and Chamber Chorus, but this semester she is too busy practicing flute or piccolo and performing a repertoire that spans baroque to contemporary classical music with the Conservatory Orchestra or Wind Ensemble. "You have to be committed to be a musician," she says. "It's a calling."

For Sarah, becoming a music educator is a way to "share what I loved growing up. I loved band. Even if the kids don't go on to be performers, they can enjoy learning an instrument or singing."

"It is not always an emotionally moving experience to play scales," she acknowledges, "but one of things that appeals to me about music is that you can express any feeling, without worry about choosing the right words."



To Kill a Mockingbird



Marvin Hamlisch



Julia Migenes

Just about everyone has to read Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but only the lucky get to see the Montana Repertory Theatre's faithful stage adaptation. Set in 1950s rural Alabama, Atticus Finch, attorney and widower, defends a young black man accused of attacking a white woman. This tale of justice and forgiveness rings as true as ever. The classic drama unfurls on April 19 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$20.

Marvin Hamlisch, pops conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony, and San Diego Symphony Orchestra, is best known for his Broadway hit, *A Chorus Line*, and for film scores, including *The Way We Were* and *The Sting*. This Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and Oscar-winning composer/performer returns to BC for an evening at the piano, accompanied by tenor J. Mark McVey, a.k.a. Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*. Sing along on April 25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and \$25.

In her one-woman show, *Diva on the Verge*, Grammy Award-winning soprano Julia Migenes combines stunning interpretations of the world's best-known arias with uproarious anecdotes about the rigid world of opera. Spend an evening with the star of *Carmen* on April 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts performances are given in the Walt Whitman Theater. Tickets may be

purchased online at BrooklynCenterOnline.org, or from the Box Office, 718.951.4500, Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 to 6 p.m. For groups of fifteen or more, please call 718.951.4600, ext. 22.

jazz professor visits south Africa as fulbright fellow while brooklyn college big band plays on

Associate Professor Salim (Michael) Washington of the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music had a dream come true. He is spending this semester and summer in South Africa as a Fulbright Fellow, devoting his time to lecturing and research on the ways in which music is influenced by the social practices of the culture where it is performed. He notes that South Africa, Cuba, and Brazil, are places where musicians have adapted jazz in innovative, influential ways.

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Washington grew up in Detroit. In his teens he mastered the saxophone and flute, and later picked up the oboe and studied piano as well. He earned a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in music from Harvard—his thesis was on John Coltrane—with some time off midstream to further his career as a jazz musician, composer, and arranger. His Boston group, the Roxbury Blues Aesthetic, played music festivals in Canada, Latin America, and Europe. Since moving to New York, he has joined pianist Donald Smith's group, the Six Bashiri, which regularly appears on Fridays at St. Nick's Pub in the Sugar Hill section of Harlem. Washington also leads his own group, the Harlem Arts Ensemble.

Washington says that he has wanted to go to South Africa since the 1970s. But being there "under apartheid where I would have had to travel as an 'honorary white'... and perform for white-only audiences," he says. "That was repugnant to me."

Washington's first impressions of the University of Kwazulu-Natal, in Durban, are positive. "I am impressed with the skill level and the creativity of these students. Some of them feel intimidated by having a visiting professor who teaches in Brooklyn and performs in New York, but they are able to overcome their shyness with a little coaxing.

"The music department here is different from ours in one important way. Here there is a Centre of Jazz and Popular Music, so students who want to be jazz performers or composers can specialize in that area much more easily than at BC, where the general focus is upon Western Art music. We will have a full compliment of instrumentalists to complete the various bands and ensembles.

"It's an exciting time to be in this country—certainly a polyglot, multi-cultural society. There is a lot of complexity in the everyday social realities, which my two daughters and I are trying to navigate. The chief challenge at the moment is learning to speak Zulu, which is the default language in which I am greeted by black South Africans here in Kwa Zulu Natal. It is not easy for an Anglophone, but it is fun trying.

"I have been scheduled to play in various venues in Durban, East London, Grahamsville, and Cape Town, and am learning to play the mbira and the karimba, long-held desires of mine finally coming to fruition."

Washington will be back in the fall. "I'm a musician first and foremost," says he, "and I want to be in New York." But in the meantime, the show must go on.

The Brooklyn College Big Band, normally led by Washington, will perform its concert as scheduled on Tuesday May 12, at 7 p.m., in the Brooklyn College Levenson Recital Hall, under the able direction of Paul Corn, B. Mus., '99, M. Mus., '03, an adjunct instructor at the College, who is the assistant principal of the arts, music and theater departments at Susan E. Wagner High School in Staten Island as well as a touring saxophonist, clarinetist, composer, and leader of his own trio, quartet and Big Band. The Brooklyn College Big Band program will include "A Night in Tunisia" by Dizzy Gillespie; "Aquarius Rising" by Frank Lacy; "Buzzy" by Charlie Parker; and original compositions by Salim Washington, Paul Corn, and Santi Debriano. Tickets—available at the door, by phone, or internet—are \$5. For more information, call 718.951.4500.



eighty-eight keys to a good Life

Neil Walker, B. Mus., '05; M. Mus., '07, has always had a fascination with music and sounds. Growing up in Barbados, pursuing a career in music was something left to "ruffians," he says. "I was supposed to be a doctor or a lawyer. It's just a Caribbean thing."

When he got a scholarship to come to Brooklyn College, with its renowned Conservatory of Music, he jumped at the opportunity to pursue his dream. With both a bachelor's and a master's degree in piano performance from Brooklyn College, Neil is now working as a concert pianist, recording in the studio, and teaching private lessons as well.

Walker has participated in almost all the major music festivals in Barbados including the Jazz Festival, Crop Over, and Congaline, and in 2001, he performed the piano works of Beethoven, Brahms, and



Gershwin in a series on Barbadian television. The following year he made his solo debut in the island-nation's Frank Collymore Hall.

"There are three black classical pianists that I know," he says, laughing. "I grew up listening to jazz, calypso, soca, and reggae but I always played classical on the side."

Walker is well-versed in all of the aforementioned musical genres, and he plays gospel music on Sundays at his church. A Brooklyn resident, he plans on coming back to Brooklyn College for an advanced certificate in teaching.

"I'm fascinated by questions like why Britney Spears' "Oops, I did it again" becomes a huge hit, and why we remember certain songs and how our brain responds to certain music," he says.

"A lot of people are not very comfortable with classical music. By breaking it down, I'm glad I can open people's eyes—or ears—to different styles of music."

performing Arts center

Planned to open by spring 2012, the performing arts center will be state-of-the-art. It will also be Brooklyn College's first truly "green" building, using

on Hillel Place, bringing the sight lines of the street and library tower into view from Flatbush and Nostrand avenues.



environmentally friendly and sustainable materials and systems. Features include a two-hundred-seat performance space, more than thirty rehearsal studios and practice rooms, a high-tech recording studio, a computer music center, and a set and scenery construction shop. The project also includes the upgrading of the asphalt amphitheater to a grassy landscaped area with sculpture and seating areas. A new entrance to the campus will be constructed

To make way for this new building, Gershwin Hall will be demolished in fall 2009. Arrangements are being made for the temporary relocation of the affected music and theater programs to Roosevelt Hall during the anticipated two-year construction period.

LIBRARY CARD

Friends of the Library membership cards cost \$75 a year for both access to and borrowing rights from the state-of-the-art Brooklyn College Library and the newly expanded Library Café as well. Cardholders can take out up to five books at a time.

Brooklyn College alumni can enjoy the same library privileges at the reduced price of \$60 a year.

You can find out more about the library by obtaining a free one-day pass and paying us an exploratory visit. To request a one-day pass or to get more information about the library, call 718.951.5346 or 718.951.5335.

RECREATION PASS

Recreation passes are available to all students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members. Facilities include tennis courts, a fitness center, and a basketball gym. Come to Brooklyn College for fun, fitness, and relaxation!

To check rates or pick up a schedule, stop by the Recreation Center, 125 Roosevelt Hall, or call 718.951.5366.

Note: The West Quad building is almost ready for use! The new two-floor fitness center, with a view across both quadrangles, will open this fall. The squash and racquetball courts, gyms, dance studio, and the swimming pool will again be available to local residents for use. Come to Brooklyn College and make a splash! We will have a grand opening in the fall. Stay tuned.

COMMUNITY RESIDENT ID PASS

Brooklyn College welcomes you to explore and enjoy our campus. The College will issue a photo ID to residents of neighborhoods that border the campus. To obtain a pass you will need to provide proof of local residency—such as a utility bill—and photo identification. For more information, drop by the Office of Campus and Community Safety Services, 0202 Ingersoll Hall, or call 718.951.5511.

Tell us how Brooklyn College might be a better neighbor.

Send your suggestions to:
Brooklyn College Office of College and Community Relations
2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210
Call 718.951.5391 or e-mail us at communitycomments@brooklyn.cuny.edu.
Let us know if you wish to be on our mailing list.

Friday, March 20–Sunday, March 22

Theater: *The Learned Ladies*, by Molière. Ray Virta, director. Comedy ensues when the timid patriarch of a well-to-do Parisian family engages in a power struggle with his domineering wife. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Gershwin Theater, \$12; seniors \$10; students \$5.

Sunday, March 22

Contemporary ballet: *Don Juan*, by Igor Dobrovolskiy. Performed by the Ballet-théâtre atlantique du Canada. Featuring the music of George Gershwin. 2 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$30, \$20.

Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29

Music: *Radamisto*, by Handel. Brooklyn College Opera Theater. Richard Barrett, director. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$10.

Thursday, April 2–Sunday, April 5

Theater: *A Piece of My Heart*, by Shirley Lauro. Lindsey Clinton-Kraack, director. Based on true stories of female nurses in the Vietnam War. Thursday–Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. New Workshop Theater, \$5.

Sunday, April 5

Family Music: Hot Peas 'n Butter, a New York based children's musical group blends jazz, R&B, folk, rock, and Afro-Caribbean into their family concerts. 2 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$6.

Music: Faculty Recital Series. Spanish Keyboard Classics. Adam Kent, piano. 3 p.m. Levenson Recital Hall, \$5.

Sunday, April 19

Theater: *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Montana Repertory Theater. 3 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$30, \$20.

Tuesday, April 21

Music: Conservatory Guitar Ensemble. Lars Frandsen, director. 5 p.m. Levenson Recital Hall.

Thursday, April 23

Dance: Brooklyn Dance Spectacular. Conservatory of Music students perform original compositions to the choreography of Artis Smith's dance group. 7 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$5.

Saturday, April 25

Music: Marvin Hamlisch. This Tony, Grammy, Oscar, and Emmy Award-winning composer/performer returns to Brooklyn Center for an evening of unforgettable music. 8 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$40, \$25.

Sunday, April 26

Music: Julia Migenes. *Diva on the Verge*. Grammy Award-winning singer combines some of the world's best-known arias with uproarious anecdotes about the rigid world of opera. 2 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$25.

Monday, April 27

Music: conTEMPO. Ursula Oppens, director. Conservatory of Music students perform contemporary works. 7 p.m. Levenson Recital Hall, \$5.

Wednesday, April 29

Music: Conservatory Brass Ensemble. Douglas Hedwig, conductor. 5 p.m. Levenson Recital Hall, \$5.

Thursday, April 30

Music: Faculty Recital Series. The French Influence. Douglas Hedwig, cornet, trumpet, and flugelhorn. Carl Bolleia, piano. Works by Henri Büsser; Eugene Cools, George Hue, and Jules Mouquet. 1 p.m. Levenson Recital Hall, \$5.

Friday, May 1

Spring Open House for Undergraduate Students.

This event features small group information sessions and question and answer sessions with a representative of the Office of Admissions. A guided walking tour of the campus will be led by a student tour guide. 1 p.m. Register online by visiting the Brooklyn College website, www.brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Saturday, May 2

Music: Sakura Matsuri Festival. The Prep Center performs at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. 11 a.m. Brooklyn Botanic Garden. \$8; seniors and children, \$4.

Thursday, May 7

Music: Conservatory Orchestra and Brooklyn College Chorale. George Rothman, orchestra conductor. Matthew Ferrell, chorale director. *Schicksalslied*, by Brahms. Winner of the Conservatory Concerto Competition. 7 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$5.

Tuesday, May 12

Music: Brooklyn College Big Band. Salim Washington, director. Paul Corn, guest conductor. 7 p.m. Levenson Recital Hall, \$5.

Wednesday, May 13

Music: Conservatory Wind Ensemble. Emily Moss, conductor. 7 p.m. Whitman Hall, \$5.

Sunday, May 17

Music: *Annie*. Tony Award-winning musical about a little orphan girl with a great big heart. Features such Broadway showstoppers as the ever-optimistic "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life." 3 p.m. Whitman Hall. \$40, \$30. Balcony seats still available.

COME ON CAMPUS!

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs in the Student Center require a valid Brooklyn College ID or a Community Resident Pass for admission (see page 3). For tickets and information about events at Whitman Hall, Gershwin Theater, and the New Workshop Theater, call the box office, 718.951.4500. For more information about events at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, call 718.951.4500 or visit www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org. For athletics events, information, and schedule updates, visit www.brooklyncollegeathletics.com. For more information about admissions and open house events at the College, visit www.brooklyn.cuny.edu and click on the OPEN HOUSE logo.

BROOKLYN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

discounts

For information on discounts for seniors; students; children, ages eighteen and under; and groups of fifteen or more, call the box office, 718.951.4500, Tuesday–Saturday, 1–6 p.m.