

URI THEATRE



October 13 - 15, 2022, 7:30 pm
October 20 - 22, 2022, 7:30 pm
October 16 & 23, 2022, 2:00 pm

The University of Rhode Island, Theatre Department Presents:

POLAROID STORIES

by **Naomi Iizuka**



Stage Management by
Liam Horne

Scenic Design by
James Horban

Lighting Design by
Audrey Visscher

Sound Design by
Michael Hyde

Costume Design by
Matthew Oxley

Directed by **Patrick Saunders**

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

COMPANY



IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Ashlyn Banno.....Philomel
Liam Roberts.....D (dionysus)
Syd Davey.....Eurydice
Ayrin Ramirez.....Persephone (also Semele)
David Weber.....Orpheus (also Tereus)
Justin Peters.....Narcissus
Jenna Muldoon.....Echo
Courtney Satterley.....Skinheadgirl (a.k.a. neon girl)
Henry O'Brien.....Skinheadboy (a.k.a. oklahoma boy/speedracer)
Ben Pereira.....G (a.k.a. zeus, hades)

UNDERSTUDIES

Chayla Valentine.....U/S Philomel
David Santana.....U/S D (dionysus)
Giulia Russo.....U/S Eurydice
Liliana Varela.....U/S Persephone (also Semele)
Brandon Tallardy.....U/S Orpheus (also Tereus)
Christian Owen.....U/S Narcissus
Paige D'lori.....U/S Echo
Emma Freel.....U/S Skinheadgirl (a.k.a. neon girl)
Matt Perrotta.....U/S Skinheadboy (a.k.a. oklahoma boy/ speedracer)
Alex Linn.....U/S G (a.k.a. zeus, hades)

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION



Please turn off or place cell phones on silent mode. Their use along with cameras, recording devices, social media postings and smoking is

PROHIBITED

Polaroid Stories is intended for mature audiences and contains strong language and adult situations. Polaroid Stories contains loud, rhythmic and sudden sound effects throughout the performance, as well as strobes and flashing lights. In addition, there are moments when the light will be focused on the audience. The audience is advised that theatrical cigarettes are used in this production.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“I am dragged along by a strange new force. Desire and reason are pulling in different directions. I see the right way and approve it, but follow the wrong.”

-Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

In Naomi Iizuka's *Polaroid Stories*, everyone is desperate for an escape: an escape from their pasts, their problems, their partners, and their pain. How many of us can relate to that same desire, perhaps at the end of a long day, to be able to step outside of ourselves and be free of whatever cares and concerns may be weighing us down? Granted, our own desire for such an escape may not be as urgent or as all-consuming as the characters in this play. Still, it can be felt in small ways: blasting music on the drive home to keep yourself from overthinking, that happy hour beverage to take the “edge” off, even the purchase of a ticket for an evening at the theater. After all, isn't it wonderful to sit in communal anonymity and embrace the trials and tribulations of someone (anyone) other than yourself for just a couple of hours?

And what a series of trials and tribulations this work contains. Informed by interviews with unhoused youth in Minneapolis in the late 1990s, *Polaroid Stories* follows ten individuals that appear trapped within an urban underworld. Running from troubled pasts and partners, they are now lost in a labyrinth of addiction and abuse wherein their tools for coping have become treacherous traps. However, rather than relate these tales in a realistic mode, Iizuka reimagines these stories through a mythological lens, turning to Ovid's *Metamorphoses* for inspiration.

Why turn to an epic poem from classical antiquity to help tell this contemporary story? In his *Metamorphoses*, Ovid narrates a mythological history of the world and, as anyone familiar with the Greco-Roman gods may anticipate, it is, therefore, a work filled with

episodes of love and lust, rape and regret, violence and vengeance, betrayal and brutality. Our deepest desires and basest impulses are on full display, and we regard this material as a poetic exploration of the human condition. Now, similar content can be found in those interviews Iizuka conducted; however, as soon as substance abuse is invoked, it can become all too easy to reduce those characters to “addicts” and not complex and compelling individuals worthy of our empathy. The ancient murderer immortalized in marble statues often receives our full attention in a way that is not typically extended to today’s murderer struggling with an addiction on meth. Ironically, by drawing parallels to gods and mythological beings, Iizuka is working to help these characters hold on to a sense of human dignity they might not otherwise be afforded.

In your escape into the world of this play, I hope that you find yourself engaged in a challenging exercise of empathy. These characters will not make that work easy; they can be violent, bigoted, selfish, manipulative, and exhibit a host of other vices... but that does not make them any less human or deserving of our compassion and consideration. Look for the moments of (attempted) connection between individuals, though they may be few and far between in this dangerous world. And, perhaps above all, heed the cautionary warning of this work, which writer Nic Sheff has articulated in his memoir far better than I could hope to:

“Shooting drugs was all about not having to face my life - not having to live in reality. But I don’t want to escape anymore. I don’t want to experience life through a veil of false emotions. I guess I just want to be authentic for a change.”

-Nic Sheff, *Tweak: Growing Up on Methamphetamines*

A PRIMER ON CHARACTERS FROM OVID’S METAMORPHOSES

Dionysus: Son of Zeus, king of the gods, and Semele, his mortal mistress (one of many). Patron god of festivity, wine, the grape-harvest, theatre,

fertility, ritual madness, and religious ecstasy. Does not take kindly to challenges of his parentage and divinity.

Zeus: King of the gods, ruler of the skies. Married to Hera, though he is known for his many affairs and abductions of other goddesses, nymphs, beings, and mortals.

Semele: Lover of Zeus and mother of Dionysus. When Hera, Zeus's wife, learns of her affair, she tricks Semele into asking Zeus to reveal his true godhood to her. This sight is too much for a mortal to bear, and she dies, leaving Dionysus behind.

Philomel: Princess of Athens who was raped by her brother-in-law, King Tereus, then silenced by having her tongue removed. She ultimately communicates her rape to her sister by weaving it into a tapestry and, in an epic chase by Tereus, is turned into a nightingale by the gods.

Persephone: Daughter of Zeus and Demeter, goddess of agriculture. She is abducted by Hades and brought to the underworld to reign as his wife, which she does for several months of the year. During these months, Demeter refuses her duties, resulting in the cyclical nature of the seasons.

Hades: Brother to Zeus, ruler of the underworld. He abducts Persephone and claims her as his bride. Typically colder in temperament than the other deities, he and Persephone are moved by Orpheus's request to retrieve Eurydice.

Orpheus: Legendary musician and prophet, capable of moving stones with his song. When his wife Eurydice dies, he travels to the underworld and persuades Hades and Persephone to let him return her to the living world. He is permitted to do so as long as he does not look back at her before they are back in the realm above, which he fails to follow.

Eurydice: Wife of Orpheus (see above). She does not, ultimately, leave the underworld.

Narcissus: Hunter known for his remarkable beauty. When he coldly rebuffs the advances of the nymph Echo, he is cursed to love only himself and wastes away admiring his own reflection in a pool of water. He eventually becomes the flower that bears his name.

Echo: Nymph who was cursed for gossiping to only repeat what others have immediately said. She pines after Narcissus but is coldly dismissed. Like Narcissus, she eventually wastes away until only the sound of her voice remains.

Theseus: Hero and eventual king of Athens. Of his many adventures, he is perhaps best known for slaying the Minotaur (half-bull, half-man) in the labyrinth. He is aided by Ariadne, Princess of Crete, though he ultimately abandons her.

Ariadne: Princess of Crete and lover of Theseus, she aids him in the labyrinth by gifting him a ball of thread so that he can find his way back out. She runs away with him after he slays the Minotaur, though he abandons her on the island of Naxos. Dionysus then takes her for his wife, turning her into a star.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director..... Jacob Richards-Hegnauer
Assistant Technical Director.....Colin Cleary
Production Manager.....Paula McGlasson
Student Production Manager.....Michael Galvin and Lizzy Klebart
Assistant Production Manager.....Tess Cruz
Assistant Director.....Theo Fantozzi
Assistant Stage Managers.....Hannah Bagshaw, Rose Bohac,
Caoilfhionn Farrell, Sophia Greco,
Bianca Iafrate, Casey Pratt, Meghan Turner
Dramaturge.....Ben Davis
Charge Scenic Artist.....Raven Szewczok

Assistant Scenic Designer.....Sam Cote
Paint Crew.....Tess Cruz, Sophia Greco, and Audrey Visscher
Properties Designer.....Melie Hayes
Master Electrician.....Haley Ahlborg
Student Master Electrician.....Nick Comito
Master Carpenter.....Erin Doyle
Carpenters.....Sophia Greco
Set Construction Crew.....Theo Fantozzi,
Meghan Turner, THE161
Stage & Properties Running Crew Ethan Clarke, Crystal Cruz,
Kenneth Dunn, Madeleine Macora, Abraphine Ngafaih,
Zoe Regnard, David Santana, Tatiana Sullivan
Light Board Operator.....Aaron Adams
Sound Board Operators.....Lynsie Lapointe
Assistant Sound Designer.....Erin Grafing
Costume Shop Manager.....Alison Carrier
Costume Construction Crew.....Rachel Arruda, Kalif Madriaga,
Riley Nedder, Kit Selle, THE250 Students
Stitcher.....Rachel Dulude
Costume Maintenance Supervisor.....Rachel Arruda
Costume Maintenance Crew.....Nick Comito,
Jocelyn Fonseca, Sydney Nogueira
Wardrobe Crew Head.....Kalif Madriaga and Riley Nedder
Wardrobe Running Crew.....Caroline Catino, Jackie Johnson,
Alora McCarroll, Matt Perrotta,
Brandon Tallardy, Chayla Valentine
Hair & Makeup Crew Head.....EJ Caraveo
Publicity Director.....Bonnie Bosworth
Poster Design.....David T. Howard and Courtney Satterley
Program Cover Design.... David T. Howard and Courtney Satterley
Program Design.....Emma June Guglielmi
Box Office Managers.....Michael Galvin, Liam Horne,
Manny Maldonado

Box Office Staff.....Theo Fantozzi, Lizzy Klebart,
 Zoe Pepin, Meghan Turner, Jenna Wentworth
 Resident House Manager.....Michael G. Lapointe
 Student House Managers....Ben Davis, Mike Joyce, Robert Knight,
 Jenson Tavares, Jayden Weichtmann,
 Joshua Winderman, Sabrina Youn
 Ushers.....THE100 Students
 Social Media Chair.....Michael Galvin
 Social Media Team.....Sam Cote, Caoilfhionn Farrell,
 Meagan Frye, Gwen Glaude, Erin Grafing,
 Manny Maldonado, Jenna Muldoon, Henry O'Brien
 Properties Artisan.....Meagan Frye



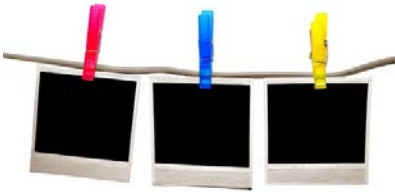
Casting Policy

URI Theatre is committed to equal opportunity and non-traditional casting. Our productions strongly encourage any/and all students, staff, faculty or members of the community to audition and/or participate in URI productions. There will be no discrimination based on sex, race, color, age, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, veteran and/or disability status.



URI Theatre Mission Statement

The URI Theatre program provides a conservatory experience with a pre-professional liberal art setting. The distinguished faculty, guest artists and staff place an equal emphasis on the theoretical and practical understanding of theatre. Artistically vibrant, relevant and rooted in collaboration, our unique production program enriches all students and serves the educational and cultural needs of the university and the greater community



The Kennedy Center



THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 52®, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisor Committee on the Arts.

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We acknowledge with gratitude the many who have so graciously supported the University of Rhode Island, Department of Theatre

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URI THEATRE STAFF & FACULTY

Bonnie Bosworth.....Administrative Assistant III, Publicity Director
Alison Walker Carrier.....Costume Shop Manager
Jeff Church.....Guest Artist, Acting
Maria Day Hyde.....Guest Artist, Intro to Theatre
Michael Hyde.....Guest Artist, Sound Design
Anthony Estrella.....Guest Artist, Acting
Emma June Guglielmi.....Administrative Assistant I
Jacob Richards-Hegnauer.....Technical Director
James Horban.....Assistant Professor, Design & Technology
David T. Howard.....Professor, Department Chair
Michael G. Lapointe.....House Manager
Paula McGlasson.....Professor, Theatre Manager
Tracy Liz Miller.....Assistant Teaching Professor
Steven Pennell.....Guest Artist, Theatre History
Patrick Saunders..... Director, Guest Artist, Introduction to Acting
Dante Sciarra.....Guest Artist, Dance for Musical Theatre
Stephanie Traversa.....Guest Artist, Make-up
Sarah Toatley.....Guest Artist, Theatre History
Rachel Walshe.....Assistant Professor, Acting, Directing

Retired URI Theatre Faculty & Staff

Joy Spanabel Emery.....Professor Emerita (deceased)
Julius Galgoczy.....Technical Director
Alan Hawkridge.....Lecturer
Sally Tschantz-Dwyer.....Costume Shop Manager
Judith Swift.....Professor, Comm. Studies and Theatre
Kimber Wheelock.....Professor Emeritus (deceased)
Christian Wittwer.....Professor Emeritus
Bryna Wortman.....Professor Emerita



OR, by Liz Duffy Adams

December 8-11, 2022

OR, takes place (mostly) during one night in the life of Aphra Behn: poet, spy, and the first professional female playwright. Sprung from debtors' prison and desperate to get out of the spy trade, she has a shot at a production at one of only two London companies. But only if she can finish her play by morning despite interruptions from sudden new love, complicated royal love, and very dodgy ex-love who may murder the king in the morning. This neo-Restoration comedy is "...playful and highly literate," with "...imagination, radical instincts, and sardonic but generous humor."

OR, is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)



By the Way, Meet Vera Stark by Lynn Nottage

February 23-26 & March 2-5, 2023

It's the Golden Age of Hollywood, and aspiring starlet Vera Stark works as a maid to Gloria Mitchell, an aging star grasping at her fading career. When circumstances collide and both women land roles in the same Southern epic, the story behind the cameras leaves Vera with a surprising legacy of the impact that race had on her controversial career. Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage's fast-paced, sly satire, takes you on a seventy-year journey through Vera's life and the cultural climate that shaped her.

BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection (www.dramatists.com)

Into The Woods

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Orchestrations by Johnathan Tunick

April 20-23 & 27-30, 2023



Follow a Baker, the Baker's Wife, Cinderella, Jack (of Beanstalk fame), Little Red Riding Hood, and the Witch to search for their true heart's desire. Will everyone's wish be granted? Or will the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later? James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone's favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless, yet relevant, piece. Last performed at URI in 2004, [Into the Woods](#) is a Tony Award winning musical and a crowd favorite!

INTO THE WOODS is presented through Special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI- www.mtishows.com