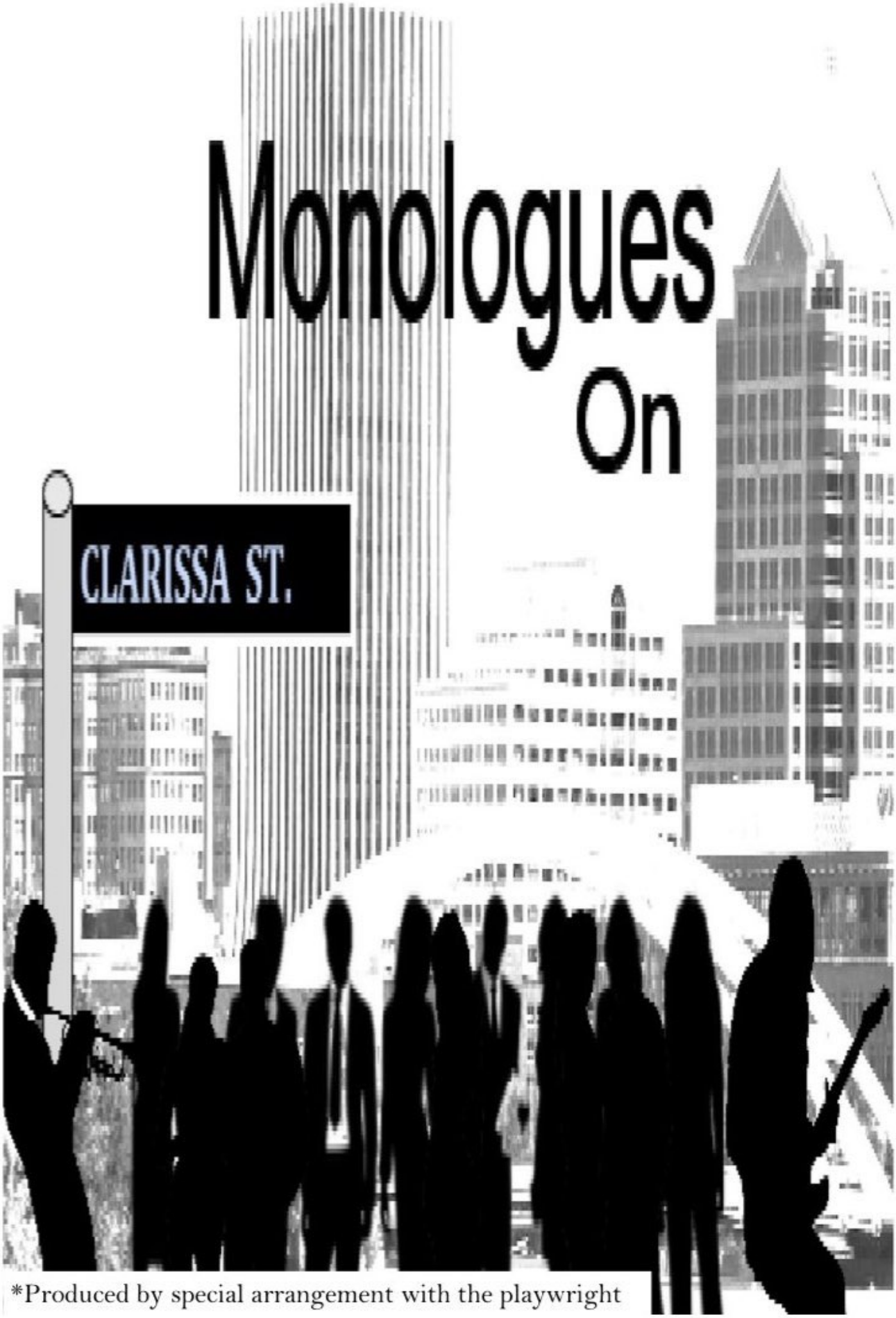
Monologues On

CLARISSA ST.



*Produced by special arrangement with the playwright

The Nazareth College Theatre and Dance Department and Theatre League present

Monologues on Clarissa Street

By Karen D. Culley

Director: Gary DeWitt Marshall
Assistant Director: Ty-Gabriel Jones
Production Stage Manager: Violet Stephania

The Cast

Nick Brown

Kyra Green

LILIAM

Iris Yang

Amara Briony

Daniyah Prosser

NAZARETH COLLEGE

SCENE BREAKDOWN

Scene 1
Why We Wear the Mask

Scene 2
Montage

Scene 3
Dreams and Visions

Scene 4
AME Zion

Scene 5
Things Happen…Cause That's the Way it is

Scene 6
Saturday...stroll on by

Scene 7
Mr. and Mrs.

Scene 8
Thirteen

Scene 9
Eat, Play, Die!

Scene 10:
We Gonna Tear Up Your Community, But It Won't Hurt A Bit

Scene 11:
Invictus

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I often reminisce about Rochester's "Corn Hill District" where I attended interim junior high school, played basketball at Montgomery Center, checked out books and Richard Pryor albums from the Phyllis Wheatley Public Library, and fatefully ate Smithy's Birdland where, "you don't need to teeth to eat my meat," long before this historic quadrant of the Flower City became a casualty of gentrification.

The Historic Third Ward was far more than an assemblage of accidental tourists, lease holders, property owners, and taxpayers who happen to live next to one another. Ironically, for generations, "hayseeds" from all points south arrived in Western New York on purpose, seeking good days and special times only to discover that Jim Crow's cousins reside and rule here too.

No-longer transplants, these commonly purposed people found familiarity, comfort, and kinship on - in - and around Clarissa Street, creating community and building legacies that remain today as an important contributor to the social and cultural fabric of our fair city - Rochester, New York.

What happens when the "urban plan" literally paves over front yards, porches, sidewalks and stoops - crushing, crumbling and burying generations of memories under asphalt, privilege and policies…?

Take a journey through the lives and experiences of the Clarissa Street community. As we celebrate and pay homage to the disenfranchised, those excluded from the master plan, those muzzled & muted voices, the too long silenced stories of those who came before us. Help us honor and validate their contribution. We advocate for the voiceless.

Our artistic activism carries on the tradition. We speak the self-evident truths. Our testimony documents the history and her-story of this vital corridor of culture that provided safe passage to Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and countless others in their pursuit of freedom and their own experience with liberty.

Our heritage and legacy depend on your collective consciousness to amplify, acknowledge, honor, and promote the promise of the future, by remembering the past. Please enjoy Monologues on Clarissa Street. Be moved to embrace the artist in you.

Take wings and soar,

Peace,
Gary DeWitt Marshall, Director

CAST BIOS

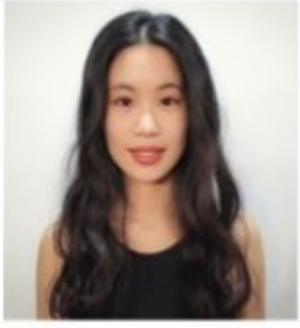
Nick Brown is a sophomore BFA musical theatre major from Fulton, New York. He is excited to be a part of this performance and the everlong discussion that the world must have over race. When listening to these stories, he hopes you can see both the beauty and the pain of life.

Kyra Green, (BFA Acting) is excited to share this story. In high school she indulged in self-taught dance. Kyra's previous work includes *The Little Mermaid*, Essie Carmichael in *You Can't Take It With You* and more. Love & thanks to mom, family and Ty-Gabriel. @kyraaa_jen

LILIAM is grateful to be a part of this production; delivering the stories that we all carry. Through these words, we release the weight off our shoulders and allow ourselves to heal, as we are evoked to cry, laugh, and feel—giving us the strength to stride forward and abjure our power with pride.

Daniyah Prosser, (BFA Musical Theatre) is excited to share this story with audiences. Daniyah discovered her love for acting at the age of 12, taking on various roles such as Fiona in *Shrek: The Musical and Grace Ferrel in Annie. Love & thanks to mom, Aaliyah, family, and the cast and crew.* *@daniyahjezel.music*

Amara Briony is a sophomore musical theatre major. She has had the pleasure of appearing in many musicals, plays, opera, and more, including performances at Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House. She is forever thankful for the time, the energy and the moments spent within this process and these people.



Iris Yang is a junior BFA acting major from Shanghai, China. She is very honored to be a member of this realistic and thought-provoking piece of work that leads people to discover and heal their hearts and souls. She wants to thank Gary, Ty, Violet and everyone else on this team. Enjoy!

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Gary DeWitt Marshall (Director) has enjoyed a fruitful career in film, television, and theatre. Marshall has appeared in the series Life on Mars, Without a Trace, The Guardian, Southland, ER, and 24; as well as films The Hurricane, In & Out, Renaissance Man, Game Day, Love Walked In, and Still Water. He originated the role of freedom fighter Micheal Dube in the Tony-nominated drama The Song of Jacob Zulu. Gary's other critically acclaimed credits "Four Men on a Couch" (2016 ROC Award Best Stage Play), "Twelve Dollars" 2017 TANYS Award for (Outstanding Direction). "Monologues on Clarissa Street", "Blues for Mister Charlie", "Talk", "You Shouldn't Have Told" and "Smudge Stick - The Pungent Aroma of Truth"

In Theatre, Marshall originated the role(s) of freedom fighter Michael Dube in the Tony Award nominated stage drama "The Song of Jacob Zulu" (Zakes Mokae), and Soldier Telfair in The "Stone Mason" (Viola Davis). Marshall has received the Theatre Association of New York State highest achievement of "Outstanding Performance" (For Men On A Couch 2019), "Outstanding Direction" (Smudge Stick Experience 2019), and (Twelve Dollars 2017).

On Television, Mr. Marshall played detective John Smollers on "Life on Mars," He also appeared in "Southland" (Regina King), "Without A Trace" (Enrique Murciano), "New York Undercover" (Malik Yoba), "24"(Keifer Sutherland), "ER"(John Leguizamo), "Matt Waters" (Montel Williams), "Angel Street" (Robin Givens) "Gemini Man", "Unsolved Mysteries." Feature films: "The Hurricane" (Denzel Washington), "Renaissance Man" (Danny Devito), "In & Out" (Kevin Kline), "New Jersey Drive" (Heavy D) "Love Walked In" (Dennis Leary) "Still Water", and "Game Day" (Sticky Fingaz). Gary's commercial endorsements include: AT&T, Midas Mufflers, Hallmark Greeting Cards, Kay Jewelers, Remy Martin, Land Rover, and Comcast Xfinity.

2020-2021 Season

Chaplin: the Musical October 2020, *virtual*

Nickle and Dimed November 2020, *virtual*

A Charlie Brown Christmas November 2020, *virtual*

Detroit '67 February 18-20 2021, *TBA*

Student Production—TBA February 26-28 2021, *TBA*

Seussical: the Musical April 23-25 2021, *TBA*

SPECIAL THANKS:

Karen D. Culley
Yuanting Zhao
Nicolette Hart
Taylor Kochan
Ty-Gabriel Jones
Violet Stephania
Reuben J Tapp
Ian Patterson
The Students of the Nazareth College
Theatre and Dance Department