

# 17<sup>th</sup> Inter-Campus Foreign Language Theatre Festival Play

## Synopses

### English

**Culture Shock** (Centre for Language Learning, UWI, St Augustine; Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

The students of the CLL English as a Foreign Language Programme come together to chronicle the experience of the first day of English class in Trinidad. Unified by the common goal of a better level of English language competency, the members of this heterogeneous group find the humour and the grace of being slightly out of one's depth.

**Directors:** Dr Amina Ibrahim Ali, Natalie Bhawanie, Lazina Siew

**Actors:** Denisse Mayle Álvarez Valera, Carlos Eduardo Cardozo Pachano, Xueping Chen, Oriana Carolina González Varela, Daming Huang, Grace Oceann Kiavue, Andreina Molleja Medina, Ariel Mauricio Morales Hernández, Juliana da Silva de Lima Oliveira, Iris Cecilia Ravenet, N'djibury Reece Co, Wenjing Weng

### French - Français

**Une tempête d'Aimé Césaire** (UWI, Cave Hill, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>)

Une tempête ("A Tempest") is a 1969 play by Aimé Césaire. It is an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* from a postcolonial perspective. Césaire uses all of the characters from Shakespeare's version, but he specifies that Prospero is a white master, while Ariel is a mulatto and Caliban is a black slave. These characters are the focus of the play as Césaire foregrounds issues of race, power, and decolonization.

Caliban and Ariel react differently to their situation. Caliban favours revolution over Ariel's non-violence, and rejects his name as the imposition of Prospero's colonizing language, desiring to be called X. He complains stridently about his enslavement and regrets not being powerful enough to challenge the reign of Prospero. Ariel, meanwhile, contents himself with asking Prospero to consider giving him independence.

**Directors:** Dr Héléne Zamor, Dr Isabelle Constant

**Actors:** Bianca Arthur, Meghan Ben, Dominique Greenidge

**C'est la vie** (UWI, Mona, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>)

C'est la vie is a fusion of excerpts from several songs done as one dramatic play. The songs are: *On savait* by La Grande Sophie; *Je suis moi* by Shy'm; *Comme avant* by Mathieu Edward avec Sheryfa; *La vieillesse* by Georges Moustaki; and *Le cercle de la vie* by Roi Léon. The play looks at the trajectory of life and the change in perspective of the protagonist as time passes.

**Directors:** Rona Barnett-Passard and Carolyne Allen

**Actress:** Krysten Nelson

**Frédo** (DMLL, UWI, St Augustine, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

In this comedy by Francis Poulet, Frédo, a young rock 'n roll loving punk in a black motorcycle jacket is in love with Marie-France, the only daughter of the wealthy Bourgoin Durambourg family. He invites himself to their home where, to the surprise of all present, he asks for Marie-France's hand in fluent slang. Obviously, things do not go smoothly. However, Robert, the master of the house realizes that if he wants to "save" his daughter, he and his wife must play Frédo's game for now. While they both try their best to go along with the scheme, Frédo unveils his mask!!! And, to their astonishment, the Bourgoin Durambourg discover that it was, in fact, François-Henri Dumoulin-d'Avoriez, the boy they always dreamed of having as a son-in-law. If this marriage proposal is real, at least it will be creative! An April Fool's day joke on 1st April!

**Director:** Mathilde Dallier, Estelle Béchon (assistant director)

**Actors:** Kristian Ali, Daysha Allen, Jasmine Ramcharita, Maya Ramesar, Priya Ramjewan, Maria Ramnath, Anastasia Tomkin, Kamilah Williams

**Japanese**

**Sakura of the Gods** (Centre for Language Learning, UWI, St Augustine, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

Akai Ito, or the red string of faith, is what ties us together... but does it mean destiny is unchangeable? Are we doomed to a pre-set life of scheduled events or is destiny for us to control? For three young rulers of Japan, the answers to these questions may change their lives forever... Hikaru, Isamu and Ai have always lived in peaceful times in their beloved country of Japan. Whilst friendships bloom under the cherry blossoms, so too does love... but will faith's twisted hand pluck the bud before it blooms? Will the bonds

of years of friendship be shattered by one misunderstood act? Can bonds that have been broken be healed? And do the sins of the parents really fall upon the child? Join us on a magnificent journey of highs and lows as we follow the story of three children of the gods as they come of age to rule Japan and her clans.

**Directors:** Melissa Grant, Christian Jalim

**Actors:** Isiah Archer, Megan Ali, Varuna Deopersad, Melissa Grant, Kevin Hee Chung, Christian Jalim, Christopher Roxborough, Sarah Sobrian, Shenelle Taitt.

### **Mandarin**

**The Peony Pavilion** (UWI, Cave Hill, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>)

The Peony Pavilion is a very famous 16th century Chinese play usually performed as Kun Opera. It tells how love transcends both life and death. Liniang, the heroine in the opera, and her maid Chunxiang pay a visit to a beautiful garden in this scene, where Liniang is awakened to the ephemerality of the beauty of nature and youth.

**Director:** Dr. Ruoen Fan

**Actors:** Atania Brathwaite, Karissa Harte

**牛郎织女 (*The Weaver Girl and the Cowherd*)** (Centre for Language Learning, UWI, St Augustine, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

This shadow puppet performance is about a love story between Zhinü (a Goddess weaver girl) and Niulang (a mortal cowherd). Their love is not allowed, so they were banished to opposite sides of the Silver River (the Chinese name for the Milky Way). So moved by their love, once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, a flock of magpies would form a bridge to reunite the lovers for one day.

**Director:** Angelie Chotalal, He Min (Advisor)

**Actors:** Andrew Alben, Angelie Chotalal, Ife Davis, Stefan Harley, Sunil Kal

### **Patois - Kwéyòl**

**Zafè Nòs-la (*Wedding Business*)** (DMLL, UWI, St Augustine, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

Two women at a wedding gossip (*maco*) about everyone (*tout moun*) and their business (*zafè*)

**Director:** Nnamdi Hodge

**Actors:** Felicia Bisnath, Jamie dos Ramos, Shanice Harrigin, Shanaz Karmally, Sophia Leps, Rhia Mahabir, Avionne Mills

### **Portuguese - Português**

**Bem-vindas ao Rio (*Welcome to Rio*)** (DMLL, UWI, St Augustine, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

Two independent Trinidadian girls, Ria and Khadesha, fly to Rio de Janeiro with different objectives. With their Brazilian friends, Shanice and Tamia, they will experience some of the best things that Rio has to offer, but it is a football match that will prove to be a game changer.

**Director:** Maria Teresa Costaguta (author and director)

**Actors:** Shanice Harrigin, Khadesha La Touche, Shane Prince, Amy Ramkissoon, Ria Thomas, Tamia Tuitt, Carysse Baird, Yashira Peters

### **Spanish - Español**

**El Bebé León se hace héroe** (University of Trinidad & Tobago, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>)

El Bebé León gets permission from his mother to go out to play with his friends, Pájaro and Mono, but does not heed her instruction to stay nearby. The three friends go wandering through the forest and eventually get lost. Through this adventure el Bebé León finds his own voice, learns the value of friendship and obedience to his parents.

**Directors:** Ruth Albornoz, Mariette Cooper, Aarti Persad

**Writers:** Tishana Rojhan and Chandini Ramkissoon

**Actors:** Hannah Clovis, Jose-Ann Hyland, Reshma Rampersad, Tishana Rojhan

**El Monstruo Blu** (University of Trinidad & Tobago, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>)

Adapted from story by Amelia Ramsawak, this play focuses on Raquel, Teresa and Miguel. Each time they take a break from playing in the cane fields, el Monstruo Blu snatches their food and toys. They must teach him how to behave if he wants to play and share with them.

**Directors:** Ruth Albornoz, Mariette Cooper, Aarti Persad

**Actors:** Jenice Bonyun-Samuel, Daniella Boodoo, Aveta Boodram, Ramona Juttlah, Shivani Lackraj, Avalon La Guerre, Ricola Mahabir, Nicole Nelson, Onela Ramdhanie

**El Uno y el Dos** (UWI, Cave Hill, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

Scenes of daily life or family type such as dialogues, arguments and even fights can be used for educational purposes. The prevailing *macho* culture (chauvinism: sexist male attitude) in our society can be performed satirically, with a simple and humorous shade, adapting situations which by their nature might become hilarious to spectators. The spark, the cunning way and the sense of humour typical from our people are put together and included in costumbrist plays such as *El Uno y el Dos*, an adaptation of situations gathered by popular fantasy from generation to generation. *El Uno y el Dos* recreates a family discussion between husband and wife due to a certain discomfort from her. The situation gets out of control, attracting attention from other people in town, who suddenly start making a big deal of the whole couple issue.

**Directors:** Paula González and Paola Pinto Parra

**Actors:** April Louis, Arletta Samuel, Ohr Shortte, Christopher Cox

**Diatriba de amor a un hombre sentado** (UWI, Mona, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>)

Graciela, the main character, is the wife of a wealthy man. The couple is just about to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary (25 years married). This character develops a discourse/monologue about satisfaction and intimate pain, making a parallel between social climbing and the decline of love. To her, nothing is as close to hell as a happy marriage. Graciela is attempting to talk to her husband but he is just a puppet, merely reflecting the disappointment of her life full of losses.

**Director:** Maite Villoria

**Actress:** Jodian Frame

**Exceso de Equipaje (*Excess Baggage*)** (DMLL, UWI, St Augustine, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>)

A group of people with diverse conflicts is flying to Europe when the mysterious death of one of the cast members results in the plane landing in Trinidad and Tobago. While the crime investigation is being carried out, the motley crew has no other option but to stay in Trinidad, followed around closely by a very popular TV commentator. The visit to Trinidad will give them the key to solve their personal conflicts but...will it help them to solve the crime?

**Directors:** Carolina Arrieta (author and director); Assistant directors: Andrés Rico, Daniel Vargas and Fernanda Cuervo

**Actors:** Teresa Atwaroo, Carysse Baird, Fernanda Cuervo, Shanice Harrigin, Wole Hislop, Ansana Maharaj, Yashira Peters, Hannah Perú, Jeron Reid, Andrés Rico, Stephan St. Hilaire, Arifa Satnarine, Ria Thomas, Daniel Vargas