

# *And Yet We'll Speak*



*A New Play Created by  
The Men of ODAQ*



*Adapted and Directed by:*

*Libblian White*

*Artistic Director of ODAQ*

*Phyllis Gorfain*



Content Advisory: There will be scenes with racial slurs, profane language, stylized depiction of sexual and physical abuse of children, and brief stylized depiction of gun violence

---

## *Lead Assistant Director*

**Katy Early**

## *Assistant Directors*

**Amy Jackson-Smith**

**Chandler Browne**

**Deja Alexander**

**Eliana Meyerowitz**

**Natalia Shevin**

**Niya Smith-Wilson**

**Sarah Ulstrup**

**William Osborn**



## *Music Director*

**Martin Pertersime**

## *Sound Design, Technician, Communications and IT*

**Bruce Richards**

## *Arts Administrators*

**Isabel Canfield**

**Tekikki Walker**

## Director's Note

Since the day I first proposed creating an original performance to the ODAG ensemble, I have been profoundly changed and honored by the personal revelations shared within this troupe. You see, the process for *And Yet We'll Speak* includes a twin process that could easily be titled *And Yet We'll Listen*. This collaboration has repeatedly demonstrated that the courage and audacity both to speak and to listen creates a culture that explodes silence, secrecy and shame. The stories you will witness today come from this ensemble, but they have been rendered through an artistic process in which we changed details and character names. Furthermore, all stories are performed today by actors, rather than the original teller. Distanced from the original teller, and shared today through new specificities of identity and circumstance, we present personal truths carried by a community of artists who travel in and out of each other's worlds along the lines of a story. By venturing into the ephemeral space of make-believe and play, these actors give us encounters to deeper truths about each other and ourselves. In so doing, they offer models for an examination of the beliefs we make and the stories we tell about ourselves and our nation, so that we may return to everyday life with a fuller understanding of our complex world and our own abilities to speak, to listen to act.

## Artistic Director's Note

The play that ODAG presents today is the product of a year-long process in which ODAG members have engaged in improvisations, storytelling, interviews, and written compositions – all led by a skilled and talented Oberlin College senior, Lillian White

That process has culminated in *And Yet We'll Speak* – the Honors Project for Lillian's Individual Major in Cultural Performance. Entrusted with the actors' personal stories and reveries, Lillian has devised a beautiful script that enables her and the actors of ODAG to go well beyond those academic goals. The play calls on the men to care for one another's experiences with compassion, and their courageous work calls on us to bear witness to their truths.

Lillian has also demonstrated brilliant leadership over her three years with ODAG – collaborating with me on three other productions; working cooperatively with the staff of the Grafton Reintegration Center; and helping to develop a powerful cadre of Oberlin students who assist in this team process.

As you join this theatrical journey, I hope the players and their play will transport you to their destination – one of new understanding and expanded humanity.

# Stories

1. **People Get Ready** Ensemble
2. **Dream Telling** Nick, Ric, Smitty, Marty, Ron
3. **A Christmas Nightmare** Ric, Maurice, Ron, Jay, Chris, Kenny
4. **They Let Me Go** Jay
5. **An Unstoppable Protector** Nasiir, Jerome, Joe
6. **In the Back Seat** Kenny, Brian, Scott
7. **Tempestuous Past** Dwain, Ric, Maurice, Nick, Brian
8. **Don't Snitch** Chris, Marty, "E", Ron, Smitty
9. **A New Story for My Family** Dwain, Ric, Maurice, "E", Jerome
10. **And Yet We'll Speak** Eric, Nick
11. **To Be Seen As...** Smitty, Ron, Chris, Marty
12. **Enough!** "E"
13. **Becoming Animal** Chris, Joe, Eric, Jay, Brian, Jerome
14. **Day & Night** Maurice
15. **INJUSTUS** Full Ensemble
16. **Black & Proud** Smitty, Joe, Scott, Ron Brian Kenny Nick, Maurice

# Stories

## 17. Talking with My Son

**Dwain, Nasiir**

## 18. Trains of Thought

**Nick, Ron**

## 19. A Conductor

**Chris, Scott, Brian, Maurice, Ric, Dwain, Smitty**

## 20. Seeing Freedom

**Jay, Brian, Ron**

## 21. It's Your Turn Now

**Nick, Ric, Smitty, Marty, Ron**

## 22. Finale/Reprise

**Ensemble**



# *Ensemble*

**Walter "Nasiir" Atwood**

**Ricky, Son, Ensemble**

**Shaun Bernard**

**MC**

**Scott Bruegger**

**Father, White Lady, Elena**

**Brian Druktenis**

**Mother, Nice Lady, Backer 1, Lady Backer, Red**

**Dwain Farrow**

**Adult Yanni, Marc, Teen 1**

**Ron Harris**

**Josh, Mother, Ben, John, Lady Backer, J.P. , Niece**

**Marty Louis**

**Danny, Cop, Mr. Poore**

**Jason "Jay" Mitchell**

**Derek, Riff, Marvin, Q**

**Christopher "Chris" Morris**

**Mr. Henley, Greg**

**Joseph "Joe" Peoples**

**Sidney, Friend 1, Storyteller**

**William "Nick" Perryman**

**Tommy, Dad, "no" girl, Haki**

**Martin Petersime**

**Music**

**Maurice Redmond**

**Y'ng Evan, Colleen, Wise Man, "no" girl, Speaker 1**

**Eric "E" Roberson**

**Dad, Stepdad, Chuck**

**Eric Shields**

**Al, Friend 2**

**Kenneth "Smitty" Smith**

**Derrell, John, Ben, Dancer, Teen 2**

**Kenneth "Kenny" Taft**

**Cop, Sam, "no" girl**

**Jerome Thompson**

**Tony Love, Mama, Backer 2**

**Frederick "Ric" White**

**Rich, Older Evan, Yannie, Speaker 2**





## Bias



### Walter "Nasiir" Atwood

**Ceasar – Marc Antony**  
**ODAG SWAG**  
**Tempest – Prince Ferdinand**  
**The Piano Lesson**  
**Othello – Othello**

"Theater gives voice to stories in a way that has the power to liberate the soul. ODAG is the vehicle of transformative collaboration."

"ODAG gives me the avenue to be outgoing and get in touch with my creative side. Perfect place and setting for me to use my awesome energy of awesomeness!"

### Shaun Bernard

**And Yet We'll Speak**  
**Costume and Props**



### Scott Bruegger

**The Tempest – Aerial**  
**Othello – Iago**

"Theater holds a transforming power that transports the actor into the thoughts, feelings, and motives of his character and [the ensemble]. [It] helps one rediscover their humanity, explore their "true selves" and maximize their true potential."

"Prison can and will sweep away humanity if you allow it. ODAG has given me a place to work on the humanity I now realize I've neglected."

### Brian Druktneis

**The Tempest – Boatswain**  
**Joe Turner's Come and Gone**  
**Othello – Cassio**



### Dwain Farrow

**MacBeth**  
**Ceasar**  
**ODAG Swagg**  
**The Tempest**  
**The Piano Lesson**  
**Othello**

"This play has been a transformative odyssey; awakening, giving voice to and resolution to a plethora of dreams and emotions. Heretofore "And Yet We'll Speak" has been the most substantive play that I have ever participated in. Thanks Lillian!"

"ODAG has had a profound effect on my life and it makes me proud to be a part of this family."

### Maher Lababidi

**And Yet We'll Speak**  
**Stage Crew**





### Ronald "Ron" Harris

**Cesar – First Citizen**  
**Tempest – Miranda**  
**ODAG Swagg**  
**Joe Turner's Come & Gone**  
**Othello – Emilia**

"For us to share our stories after holding on to them for years is a release that helps the healing process. The breaking of silence in an effort to get the message across to others is what this play is all about."

"Theater enables me to express, through characterization, who I am to deal with human feelings in a safe venue. ODAG opened the door and fresh air came in through this avenue, even this late in my life I accept who I am."

### Martin "Marty" Louis

**Julius Caesar – Conspirator**  
**ODAG Swagg**  
**The Tempest – Sebastian**  
**The Piano Lesson – Story Teller**  
**Othello – Brabantio**



"This process has showed me a different side to the ODAG fam & to what it really takes to put on a show about real people. I am thankful to have worked for Lillian. Thank You!"



### Jason "Jay" Mitchell

**Cesar**  
**ODAG Swag**  
**The Tempest**  
**Othello**

"Performing Arts has showed me a new outlet to having fun. Working with so many different personalities has been an experience I'll never forget. I am looking forward to using what I have learned here in my community."

### Christopher "Chris" Morris

**The Tempest –**  
**Stage Crew Leader,**  
**Hell Hound**  
**Othello – Stage Crew**



"Being involved with this play has allowed me to explore so many emotions that have transformed my reality. I definitely see myself and others in a more positive light."



### Joseph "Joe" Peoples

**MacBeth**  
**Cesar**  
**ODAG Swagg**  
**The Tempest**  
**The Piano Lesson**  
**Othello**

"Thanks for your insightful introduction of the ferocities into our psychological landscape--without which [the play] would have resulted into a different, perhaps, far less powerful undertaking. Best wishes in your own journey."

### William "Nick" Perryman

**ODAG Swagg**  
**The Tempest**  
**Joe Turner's Come and Gone**  
**Othello**



"I am grateful to ODAG and the directors who come to GRC from Oberlin. They inspire us to dare bravely."



### Martin Petersime

**Othello**





**Maurice Redmond**

**And Yet We'll Speak**

"Theater gives voice to the voiceless. I discovered that there's more people who believe in change and forgiveness than I thought."

"This play has been the most emotionally charged play for me. Listening, reading, and acting out these stories has placed me in the space of someone's fears, hurts and shames. I have been blessed to witness the healing and recovery of some great people."

**Eric "E" Roberson**

**Tempest  
Othello**



"ODAG is a vehicle for intellectual exploration of human frailties and profound human potential to evolve, create, and solve problems in the midst of a sea of stagnation and delusion called prison."



**Eric Shields**

**MacBeth - Bangus  
Othello - Othello**

"What connects me to ODAG is the family connection we all have in our program and the trust we have with one another."

**Kenneth "Smitty" Smith**

**Cesar - First Citizen  
Othello -  
Senator, Officer, and Drunk**



"The tapestry of our individual experiences and stories are profound. The compassion, dedication, and profundity of our director, [allowed her] to grasp and formulate the complexities of our lives and establish dialogue. She has transformed our lives."



**Kenneth "Kenny" Taft**

**MacBeth - MacBeth  
ODAG Swagg  
The Tempest - Juno  
The Piano Lesson - Winning Boy  
Joe Turner's Come and Gone - Loomis**

"Sow a thought; reap an action.  
Sow an action; reap a habit.  
Sow a habit; reap a character.  
Sow a character; reap a destiny."

**Jerome Thompson**

**Cesar  
ODAG Swagg  
The Tempest  
Joe Turners Come & Gone  
Othello**



"This experience has been very therapeutic for me. So much talent to offer the world. Extremely proud of my brothers in ODAG. Lillian and Phyllis are Phenomenal!"



**Frederick "Ric" White Sr.**

**And Yet We'll Speak**

# *Thank You's*

**Thank You Donors to ODAG  
from  
May 1, 2015 to May 1, 2016**

**Knut Aagaard**

**Josh M. Aerie**

**Olivia Ambrogio**

**Grace An**

**Anonymous (18)**

**Eleanor V. Armitage**

**David Ashenhurst**

**Clark W. Barnes**

**L. Morgan Barry**

**Lenore Benjamin**

**Sharon and Marc Blecher**

**Jennifer Bryan**

**Mr. and Mrs. Kim Burchiel**

**Joanne Busiel**

**William L. Byerly**

**Cynthia Carroll**

**Kevin Cole**

**Joseph and Suzanne Colucci**

**Michael Henle and Cynthia Comer**

**Dennis and Judith Cook**

**Adrian S. Costello**

**Norman and Ann Craig**

**Rudd and Lisa Crawford**

**Skyler Dees**

**Andrew D. Deppe**

**Suzanne M. Gay and James Dobbins**

**Johanna L. Dorn**

**Michael B. Dowell**

**David and Sue Egloff**

**Matthew Elrod**

**Lee Fertitta**

**Stephanie M. Fertitta**

**Sally K. Fessler**

**Catherine Fishbach**

**Janet Fiskio**

**Teresa Lee Fowler**

**Cynthia and Andy Frantz**

**Stuart and Diane Friebert**

**Steven Friedland**

**Richard Friedland**

**David Friedland**

**Barbara Friedland**

**Ann L. Fuller**

**Carol Ganzel**

**Susan A. Gelman**

**Michael L. Goldberg**

**Constance O. Goldberg**

**Phyllis Gorfain**

**Judith Gorfain**

**Louis Gorfain**

**Alan Boyd and Jessica Grim**

**Jessica and Richard Gurbst**

**Anne F. Hatch**

**Jim and Annette Helm**

**Terry Henretty**

**Karen Hsin**

**Wendy Hyman**

**Andrea Johnson**

**Lawrence Johnson**

**Ben Jones and Tanya N. Rosen-Jones**

**Nicholas and Sue Copeland Jones**

**David and Margaret Kamitsuka**

**Michael James and Seun-Mee Kang**

**Alana Kelley**

# *Thank You's*

**Diane E. Kenty**

**Jody Kerchner**

**Grace Kiriakos**

**Roderic and Gisela Knight**

**John and Kay Knight**

**Audrey Kolb**

**Clayton Koppes**

**Wendy Kozol**

**Martin and Judy Krasnov**

**Mari Kuroda**

**Gaye Laurel**

**John Leinenweber**

**John D. Lesser**

**John D. Lesser Jr.**

**Jourdan M. Lewanda**

**Jiann and Pearl Lin**

**Vivian Lintg**

**Linda Lipkin**

**Katherine B. Linehan and Glenn Loafman**

**Robert and Carol Longworth**

**Myrna Lubin**

**Alexis Macnab**

**Kristina Mani**

**Jane Mathison**

**Nancy McClusky**

**Albert G. Miller & Brenda Grier-Miller**

**John L. Mitchell**

**Mary Nelson**

**Timothy Ng**

**Eric Nilson**

**Joe Palmieri**

**Jeffrey S. Pence**

**Kim Peters**

**Kristin L. Peterson**

**Robert and Barbara Pierce**

**Laurence and Marjorie Porter**

**Philip Pritchett**

**John N. Rampe**

**R. Anne Richards**

**Bruce Richards**

**Walter H. Richards**

**Jeremy Richards**

**J. Scott Richards**

**Michael K. Richards**

**Gretchen G. Richards**

**R. Peter and Prudence Richards**

**Raymond English and Alison Ricker**

**Eve N. Sandberg**

**Dina Schoonmaker**

**Jean Foggo Simon**

**Linda and Harold Slocum**

**Arlene Smith**

**John and Marilyn Smith**

**Sally Balogh Staruch**

**Lynn C. Powell and Daniel R. Stinebring**

**Mr. and Mrs. Tolchinsky**

**Sara Tolchinsky**

**Susan R. Toler**

**Carol S. Tufts**

**Mary and Thomas Van Nortwick**

**Tekikki Walker**

**Debbi Walsh**

**Kevin and Sue Weidenbaum**

**Louise G. White**

**David and Pattie B. White**

**Wendy Kozol and Steven Wojtal**

**Gail and Reid Wood**

**David Young and Georgia Newman**

**Grover A. Zinn Jr.**

**Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund**

**Hermes Foundation**

**Reiber Charitable Trust**

**Thank you to the Staff and Departments  
of the Grafton Reintegration Center  
and the Grafton Correctional Institution**

**Northeast Regional Director Todd Ishee  
Warden LaShann Eppinger  
Deputy Warden Jerry Spatny  
Deputy Warden Keith Foley  
Deputy Warden Ron Armbruster  
Deputy Warden Jennifer Gillece  
Assistant to the Warden Adam Kastler  
Unit Manager Tanisha Long  
Correction Program Specialist Cynthia Williams  
Case Manager Maria Gentile**

**Media Studio Supervisor Eric Gardenhire  
Media Studio Supervisor John Gannon  
The Tailor Shop, Supervisor Maria Gentile**

***And Yet We'll Speak*  
Visitation Room, Grafton Reintegration Center  
May 9, May 10, May 12, May 13, May 14, May 16  
2016**



**Design by Danny Pierce**