

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honor Native Land

Every community owes its existence and strength to the generations before them, around the world, who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy into making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will; some were drawn to migrate from their homes in the hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical in building mutual respect and connections across all barriers of heritage and difference.

At Towson University, we believe it is important to create dialogue to honor those that have been historically and systemically disenfranchised. So, we acknowledge the truth that is often buried: We are on the ancestral lands of communities and nations which include the Susquehannock (suh-skwuh-ha-naak), Nanticoke (nan-tuh-kowk) and the Piscataway (puh-ska-tuh-way) people who consider the land that the university currently occupies part of their ancient homeland. These were among the first in the Western Hemisphere. We are on indigenous land that was seized from the tribes and many others by European colonists.

We pay respects to these elders and ancestors. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

Eating and drinking are prohibited in the theatre. Towson University is a smokefree campus. Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. If there is an emergency, please WALK TO THE NEAREST EXIT. Photographic, video, or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited by copyright law.

For additional information on productions, please visit our website at www.towson.edu/theatre
For a complete listing of events at Towson University, please visit events.towson.edu
If you would like to share a comment on this production, please e-mail theatre@towson.edu

WELCOME



Tonight you'll hear the word "f*ck" many, many times. Our Assistant Stage Manager counted, and the total was well over 100 instances, with one character saying the word 84 times. In a two-hour play that could average out to one "F-bomb" per minute. Wow. Why is that word used so often and what does it mean? I'm glad you asked.

In the world of this play that oft-maligned and constantly-censored word describes something joyous, life-affirming, empowering, and revolutionary. This act has its own kind of romance, though not always red wine and roses. To give physical pleasure to your partner is a gift beyond measure. To receive physical pleasure from your partner is to find a state of Grace. In this play, the physical act of love brings you closer to The Gods.

But this play is not just about the physical act of love. Tonight we evoke love in all its forms: platonic, romantic, divine, and sexual. Tonight we affirm monogamy, polyamory, asexuality, chaste love and downright hedonism. I hope this play inspires love in your heart, soul, and body. Through this play we hope to send Love with a capital "L" out into The World.

- Sache Satta Director

I WANNA F*CK LIKE ROMEO AND JULIET

by Andrew Rincón Directed by Sache Satta

November 20-25, 2025 at Towson University Center for the Arts, Studio Theatre

7:30pm - November 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 2pm - November 23

I Wanna F*ck Like Romeo and Juliet runs approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes with a brief intermission.

Content Note: I Wanna F*ck Like Romeo and Juliet contains material recommended for mature audiences including discussion of sexual assault. The show uses theatrical haze and flashing lights and features a prop gun.

"I Wanna Fuck Like Romeo and Juliet" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

TIME

Present day.

PLACE

The Celestial Heavens (located in outer space).
Hackensack, NJ (various locations).
A World of Canyons.
A World of Oceans.

CAST

THE GODS

THE OODS	
CUPID	Diana "Dee" Sanchez Cruz
VALENTINE	Nico Thompson
THE POET, CUPID & BETTI UNDERSTU	JDYSierra Perez
THE POET, ALEJANDRO & VALENTINE	
THE LOVERS	
BENNY RANDLE	Joshua Reginald Allen
ALEJANDRO DIAZ	Carlos Pagán-Cruz
THE DENTAL HYGIENIST	
BETTI	Jasmine Artis

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Sache Satta DIRECTOR

London Brooks
COSTUME DESIGNER

Kerry Lee Chipman SCENIC DESIGNER

Jay Herzog SOUND DESIGNER

Maxwell "Mack" Leeuwen LIGHTING DESIGNER Humatabae Smith STAGE MANAGER

Danielle A. Drakes INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Melissa Freilich FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Alisa "AJ" Hicks ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Director Lighting Director/Assistant Technical Director Thomas Gardner **Assistant Stage Manager** Stage Manager Liaison Seth Schwartz **Costume Shop Manager** Alizon Santamaria **Assistant Costume Shop Manager Lighting Faculty Mentor** Jay Herzog **Costume Faculty Mentor Properties Manager** Ace Mikolowsky **Assistant Costume Designer** Fayth Proctor **Assistant Sound Designer Lead Lighting Electricians** Maxwell "Mack" Leeuwen

Lighting Programmers

Sound Board Operator Light Board Operator Deckhands

Wardrobe

Scenic Carpenters

Scenic Painters

Costume Shop Staff

Production Photography

Garrett Weeda

Shelby Kiesel

Hannah Brill

Julie Potter

Arin Ballard-May

Frica Sweitzer Frica Sweitzer

Olivia Zacarias

Matthew Ufko

Alexa Lazarou

MacKenzie Crowley

Alexa Galbraith

Faith Humphreys

Delaney May Sydney Sinclair

Camille Alston

Andrea Ewoneme

Montreal Hamilton

Amy Clark

Darren De Groff

Casey Gessert

Daniel Morelli

Christian Smith

Carlee Ballard

Ace Mikolowsky

Mark Monroe

Daphne Snyder

London Brooks

Elizabeth Feuerbach

Kanwulia lyke-Azubogu

Faith Sinaletary

Katie Simmons-Barth

COSTUME CREW

Lisbeth Avila Maggie Berry Gregg Boyle Curtis Brodie AniJ Fluker-Tucker Casey Gessert Margaret Hellner Shelby Kiesel

Kellan Kinsey Shamar Martin Steven Pineda Fayth Proctor Mikaela Sanchioni Kaiya Sclaes Catherine Weiss Cecelia Zombro

SCENIC CREW

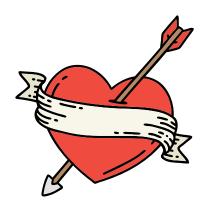
Mia Awad Davin Banks Katie Bartles Jaelyn Craigen Joseph Hatchett Emmanuella Labrousse Jenna Leannarda

Jalen Peal Faith Singletary Humatabae Smith Rachel Smith Nathaniel Swyers Justine Willard

LIGHTING & SOUND CREW

Carlee Ballard Arin Ballard-May Joseph Hatchett Jayla Johnson Corinne Murphy Robert Noakes III

Josh Omobhude Frrin Powell Rebecca White Jacob Wivell Domenico Zuniga



THEATRE ARTS FACULTY & STAFF

II I D III	A : C Cl
	Assistant Costume Shop Manager
	Script Analysis/DirectingAssistant to the Chairperson/Intro to American Theatre
	Scenic DesignMovement/Acting for Musical Theatre
Nuberi Dei Valle, Jr	Script Analysis/Community Outreach/TTI/Directing/African American Theatre
	Assistant Technical Director
	Assistant Technical Director
	Theatre Studies/Cross-disciplinary Works/Theatre for Social Change
Stephen INunns	Theories of Theatre/Theatre History/DirectingTheatre History/Costume, Dress and Society
	Voice/Acting
	Academic Program Coordinator
	Speech and Dialect/Acting
	Script Analysis/Playwriting/Thesis
relei vviuy	Acting/ Stakespedie/ Sellior Acting Sellina
ADJUNCT FACU	LTY
Donna Fox	Acting
	Acting/Stage Combat
Sha-Nel Henderson	Acting/Theatre for Social Change
	Acting/Intro to Theatre
	Intro to Theatre Design
	Acting
	Acting
	Acting
Kyle Prue	Acting
Susan J. Rotkovitz	Acting/Theatre Studies/Arts Integration
Seth Schwartz	Stage Management
Rohaizad Suaidi	Acting/Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Theatre
	Acting/Directing
Gavin Witt	Theatre History
PROFESSOR EM	FRITI
	Professor Emeritus
	Professor Emeritus
	Professor Emerita
Diane Smith-Sadak	Professor Emerita
COLLEGE OF FIN	NE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
Reging Carlow	Dean
	Associate Dean
· ·	Events and Operations Coordinator
	Marketing and Public Polations Manager



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein**.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

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

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Please consider giving a gift to the Department of Theatre Arts Scholarship Fund. The money raised by your generous donations helps students offset the cost of education and sponsors students' travel to conferences, auditions for graduate schools, and special events related to their research and development.

DONATE HERE

Purchase a Seat:

You can help build our student scholarship funds by purchasing a seat. If you are interested and want further details about seat purchasing, please email the Department of Theatre Arts at theatre@towson.edu.

The TU Department of Theatre Arts gratefully acknowledges the following gifts of scholarships:

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The Jerry Gietka Graduate Theatre Scholarship Founding Patrons: Jerry & Catherine Gietka, and Lynda Ruszala In memory of Bernadette Gietka The John Glover Scholarship Endowment for Acting Majors Founding Patrons: John Glover, Jack, and Cade Glover

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The Peter Wray Scholarship Endowment Founding Patrons: Robin and Peter Wray

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O'Shea/Auen Charitable Fund Phyllis A. Parker & James T. Parker II Kari B. Paulson & Brian W. Murray

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Towson University Black Alumni Alliance Perry Witmer & Corey A. Witmer '99

*Deceased

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LeBlanc with the set he designed for a summer season of Shakespeare plays in the Antioch Amphitheater, where he served as the technical director.

Whitney LeBlanc, born on June 20th, 1931, in Memphis, Tennessee, spent his formative years in Opelousas, Louisiana. He pursued higher education at the University of Iowa, where he earned a Master's in Theater Production in 1958.

In 1960, LeBlanc began teaching at Antioch College. He then held positions as a professor at Howard University, Lincoln University, the University of Texas, and Towson University (then Towson State College).

In 1969, he joined the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, directing and producing 86 episodes of *Our Street*. He then moved to Hollywood, where he joined the Norman Lear/Tandem Tat organization as the Associate Director of *Good Times*. He would spend the next two decades as a director and a stage manager for numerous shows.

Aside from his contributions to television, LeBlanc was a prolific author, penning five books, and notably receiving the Amistad award for his novel *Blues in the Wind*, a part of his Blues Trilogy.

In 1996, he retired from the Directors Guild of America and moved to Napa Valley, California, where he began designing stained glass window pieces.

Mr. LeBlanc passed away in February of 2023. He is succeeded by his wife, Diane LeBlanc, and four children, leaving behind a lasting impact on both his family and the countless students and friends he inspired throughout his career.

THEATRE

Theatre U-stimulates understanding

Towerlight, April 18,1969

Theatre U was a non-profit community theater organized by Whitney LeBlanc and his then wife Elizabeth Walton at the Garrison Blvd. Church Center in Baltimore City. LeBlanc's vision for Theatre U was rooted in fostering better understanding among people of all races through the power of theater, the establishment of which was catalyzed by the recent assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The name "Theatre U" was intentionally kept a secret, allowing audiences to interpret its meaning freely. LeBlanc emphasized the importance of community involvement, stating, "no matter how polished our performances, if we do not involve the community we will have failed our goal."

LeBlanc expressed a desire to involve Drama Department students from TSC with the inner city, particularly with Black communities. His goal was to expose TSC students to authentic experiences, challenging them to move beyond pretense and understand the realities of different communities.

Towerlight article and images courtesy of the Towson Special Collections and University Archives "No matter how polished our performances, if we do not involve the community we will have failed our goal."

- Whitney LeBlanc

Unearthing Towson's History Project

In 2022, Allyn Lawrence, a student researcher with the Unearthing Towson's History Project, conducted an interview with Whitney LeBlanc where he recounts the memories of his experience as the first Black faculty member at the school.

To watch the collection of interviews with members of Towson's history, visit archives.towson.edu

TU TOWSON UNIVERSITY

LeBlanc Joins TSC

LeBlanc New Set Designer

Towerlight, October 22, 1965

The Speech and Drama Department was established at Towson State College (TSC) by Richard Gillespie in 1964. Just a decade after the ruling of *Brown v. Board,* Gillespie set out to integrate the department by recruiting Whitney LeBlanc as the assistant professor in Speech and Drama and the first Black faculty member at the school.

Despite his contentment as a professor at Howard University at the time, LeBlanc felt compelled to serve the purpose of integrating Towson's faculty. He joined TSC in 1965

In an oral history interview conducted through the Unearthing Towson's History Project he recalled his first day on campus. He recounts that only the four faculty members in the Speech and Drama Department spoke to him and he saw less than ten students of color. He likened his experience at TSC to that of Jackie Robinson during this time.



Towerlight, October 22, 1965

"Well, let 'em come."

R acial tensions at TSC came to a boil with The Glen Player's production of $And\ People\ All\ Around$, directed by Mr. LeBlanc. Written by George Sklar, the play is based on the murders of three civil rights workers, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



In anticipation of the opening night, President Hawkins called LeBlanc and Gillespie to his office where FBI agents informed him of a protest to the play organized by Klansmen, to which LeBlanc responded, "Well, let 'em come." Security measures were put in place, assigning an agent to monitor both the students and LeBlanc during the play.

On the opening night of October 20th, dozens of Klan members dressed in full regalia and George P. Mahoney hats gathered on York Road and marched in front of Newell Hall. The disruptors were met with heckling Towson students and the play was put on as originally intended.

Tower Echoes Vearbook 196

Towerlight articles and yearbook image courtesy of the Towson Special Collections and University Archives





Visit the website to schedule your audition.

