



CSG

PODCAST STUDY GUIDE

SEASON 2

INTRODUCTION

In Spring 2019, CSC launched a new podcast for audiences to find out more about the plays we were producing and the artists associated with our work.

About a year later, the theater temporarily closed as the coronavirus pandemic upended the New York theater community. Renewed calls for racial justice and equality around the country also prompted a deeper awakening within the American theater.

Considering these circumstances, CSC decided to reinvent our podcast. In each podcast, we interview various theater professionals who have years of experience questioning the definition of classic theater and challenging the way we produce theater in America.

How to Listen

The CSC Podcast is available wherever you listen to Podcasts. You can also listen online at classicstage.org/podcast.

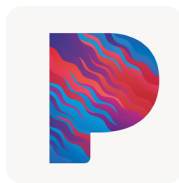


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PETER KIM AND REIMAGINING THE CLASSICS



Aired on September 30, 2020

Guests



Peter Kim

Korean American actor Peter Kim is a multifaceted artist, who can currently be seen in the Netflix critically acclaimed film produced by Lena Waithe, *The Forty-Year-Old Version*, opposite writer-producer-director-star Radha Blank. On Stage, Peter most recently starred in *Wild Goose Dreams* at The Public Theater and has appeared on Broadway in the Tony winning musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Peter is the recipient of the 2020 Rising Leaders of Color grant from the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and a Steering Committee Member of the OBIE-winning grassroots organization, Asian American Performers Action Coalition (AAPAC). In addition, he serves as Creative Producer of the National Asian American Theatre Company (NAATCO), which has received OBIE Awards as well as Drama League and Drama Desk Award nominations. To round out his performing and producing successes, Peter is also a Lecturer in Theater at Princeton University.

**“A classic is something that withstands trends...
that is enduring and everlasting.”**

– Peter Kim

Reading List/Classical Resources

- *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery* by Lloyd Suh
- *The Chinese Lady* by Lloyd Suh
- *American Hwangap* by Lloyd Suh
- *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee
- NAATCO's *Henry VI* by William Shakespeare
- NAATCO's production of *Awake and Sing* by Clifford Odets
- *The 40-Year-Old Version*
- naatco.org

AWOYE TIMPO & ARMINDA THOMAS ON THE CLASSIX



Aired on October 30, 2020

Guests



Awoye Timpo

Awoye is a Brooklyn-based Director and Producer. She is the artistic director of Classix, a theater company that expands the classical canon through an exploration of dramatic works by Black writers. Off Broadway directing credits include *In Old Age* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Good Grief* at The Vineyard Theatre, *The Revolving Cycles Truly and Steadily Roll'd* at The Playwrights Realm, and *The Homecoming Queen* at Atlantic Theater Company. Regionally she has directed *Pipeline* at the Studio Theatre, *Everybody Black* at Actors Theatre of Louisville and *Paradise Blue* at Long Wharf Theatre. Additional credits include *Carnaval* at the National Black Theatre, *Sister Son/ji* at the Billie Holiday Theatre, *The Vanished* (site-specific), *Skeleton Crew* at Chester Theatre Company, and *Ndebele Funeral* at 59E59 Theaters, Edinburgh Festival/Summerhall, and the South African tour.

“Through an investigation and through interpretation of classic plays... contemporary writers are investigating their own work now as we’re building work for the future.”

– Awoye Timpo



Arminda Thomas

Arminda Thomas is a dramaturg, archivist, and musician, and works at Classix. Selected credits include *The Black History Museum...According to the United States of America* (HERE), *Jazz* (Marin Theatre Company), *Zora is My Name* (New Federal Theatre), and *The First Noel* (Classical Theatre of Harlem). She has worked as associate artistic director and resident dramaturg for the Going to the River Festival, and as literary associate and archivist for Dee-Davis Enterprises, where she served as executive producer for the Grammy-awarded audiobook, *With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together*, and consultant for the film *Life's Essentials* with Ruby Dee.

Reading List/Classical Resources

- CLASSIX website at theclassix.org
- *The Forbidden City* by Bill Gunn
- *The Brothers* by Kathleen Collins
- The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich* by Alice Childress
- *Selected Plays by Alice Childress*, edited by Kathy A. Perkins
(includes: *Trouble in Mind*, *Wedding Band*, *Wine in the Wilderness*, *Florence, Gold Through the Trees*)
- *Mojo and String* by Alice Childress
- *The Mojo and the Sayso* by Aishah Rahman
- *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* by Errol John
- *A Tempest* by Aimé Césaire
- *The Tragedy of King Christophe* by Aimé Césaire
- *Purlie Victorious* by Ossie Davis
- *The Starter and Undertoe* by Eulalie Spence
Found in: *Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays before 1950*
(*Blacks in the Diaspora*) edited by Kathy A. Perkins
- *Shuffle Along, or, the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed* by Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle (score); George C. Wolfe (libretto); based on the original book of the 1921 musical revue *Shuffle Along*, by Flournoy Miller and Aubrey Lyles
Featured in the article "What Ever Happened to 'Shuffle Along'? Ask George C. Wolfe"
by Rob Weinert-Kendt published in *American Theatre*)

CARLA DELLA GATTA & BILINGUAL CLASSICAL THEATER



Aired on November 24, 2020

Guests



Carla Della Gatta

Carla Della Gatta is an assistant professor of English at Florida State University. She is co-editor of *Shakespeare and Latinidad*, a collection of essays forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press next year. She has been awarded fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the New York Public Library, and the American Society for Theatre Research. Della Gatta received the J. Leeds Barroll Dissertation Prize from the Shakespeare Association of America for the best dissertation in 2016. Her first monograph, *Latinx Shakespeares: The Staging of Intracultural Theatre* (in process), explores the dramaturgy of cultural adaptations. Twitter: @carladellagatta

“People get very different experiences from the theater based off of what they go in with linguistically and culturally, and their knowledge of plays.”

– Carla Della Gatta

Reading List/Classical Resources

Mentioned during episode:

- *Marisol* by José Rivera
- *The Man Who Had All the Luck* by Arthur Miller
- *The Vessel* (2016) written and directed by Julio Quintana and featuring Martin Sheen
- *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* (2012) at Asolo Rep
- *Measure for Measure* (2011) at Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- *La Comedia of Errors* (2019) at Oregon Shakespeare Festival

For further reading:

- *Shakespeare and Accentism* by Adele Lee (forthcoming, afterword by Carla Della Gatta)
- Diversifying the Classics' website
- *The Courage to Right a Woman's Wrongs* (Red Bull Theater virtual presentation, featuring translation by Ana Caro)
- *Macbeth* (side-by-side English and Spanish)
- *Work* by Antonio Ocampo-Guzman (translated the Linklater method into Spanish and trains Spanish and bilingual coaches)
- “How Should Black People Sound?” by Reid Singer, The New York Times, October 2020
- *Shakespeare's Accents* by Sonia Massai

INVESTIGATING INGE WITH WILL DAVIS - PART 1&2



Aired on December 28, 2020

Guests



Will Davis directs Molly Brennan and José Natera.
Photo by Dusty Sheldon.

Will Davis

Will Davis is an award-winning transgender director and choreographer, who focuses on physically adventurous work for the stage. An expert in Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award-winning playwright and screenwriter William Inge (best known for his plays and films *Picnic*; *Bus Stop*; and *Come Back, Little Sheba*), Will directed an acclaimed and groundbreaking production of *Picnic* for the American Theater Company in Chicago in 2017.

“Any play that will withstand time can be done outside my apartment right now on the street with nothing.”

– Will Davis

Reading List/Classical Resources

- *Picnic*; *Bus Stop*; *Dark at the Top of the Stairs*; and *Come Back, Little Sheba* by William Inge
- *The Gift* by Lewis Hyde
- *The Boys in the Band* by Mart Crowley, with introduction by Tony Kushner
- *The Boys in the Band* (2020 film, Netflix)
- *Everybody* by Branden Jacob-Jenkins (not yet in print)
- *My Son is a Splendid Driver* by William Inge (out-of-print)
- *Good Luck, Miss Wyckoff* by William Inge (out-of-print)

CASTING CLASSICS WITH DESTINY LILLY & REBECCA SCHOLL



Aired on January 28, 2021

Guests



Destiny Lilly

Destiny Lilly, CSA is a casting director based in New York. She recently cast the independent feature film, *The Subject*, which won the Best Narrative Feature award at the 2020 Art of Brooklyn Film Festival. She has cast plays and musicals for Classic Stage Company, New York Stage & Film, MCC Theater, Atlantic Theater Company, Second Stage Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, TheaterWorks Hartford, and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Destiny is an advocate for actors and artists and she currently serves on the board of directors of the Casting Society of America.

"The thing that is great about a classic is that it's not just produced in New York. It's usually something that gets produced all over the country and hopefully all over the world."

-Destiny Lilly



Rebecca Scholl

Rebecca Scholl, CSA has worked in casting since 2012 and is currently a Casting Director at Telsey. Select casting credits include *Hamilton* (Artios award winner); *West Side Story* 2020 revival; *Be More Chill*; *The Color Purple* (National Tour); *Carmen Jones*, *The Cradle Will Rock* (CSC); *Alice By Heart* (MCC); *Annie*, *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Paper Mill Playhouse); *The Who's Tommy* (Denver Center). Upcoming: Broadway revival of *The Music Man* and *Assassins* at CSC.

Reading List/Classical Resources

- *Bridgerton* (Netflix) produced by Shonda Rhimes, created by Chris Van Dusen, based on the books by Julia Quinn
- *Zooman and the Sign* by Charles Fuller
- *Fiddler on the Roof*, book by Joseph Stein, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem
- National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene production of *Fiddler on the Roof*

BARZIN AKHAVAN ON ACTING IN CLASSIC WORKS



Aired on April 20, 2021

Guests



Barzin Akhavan

Barzin Akhavan is an actor, recently seen on the CSC stage in our 2019 production of *Macbeth*. Previous credits include Broadway: *Network* (Belasco). NYC: *Hamlet* (Waterwell). International Tour: *Aftermath* (Arktype). Regional: *Pericles* (Guthrie and Folger Theatre), *Arabian Nights* (Arena, Berkeley Rep, Looking Glass), *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (World Premiere, ACT SF and Theatre of Calagary), *Shakespeare in Love* (Baltimore Center Stage and Cincinnati Playhouse), *The Kite Runner* (World Premiere, San Jose Rep and Arizona Theatre Company), *Twelfth Night* (Seattle Rep), Five seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Four seasons with the Lake Take Shakespeare Festival, and one season with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Film and TV credits include *Joyful*, *Smash*, *Law and Order CI*.

"The second we are able to get back into the room, I will hang on to every word and every sound. I'll let it resonate through my body and through my bones."

– Barzin Akhavan

Reading List/Classical Resources

- Seattle Children's Theater
- *The Comedy of Errors*
- *The Tempest*
- *The Kite Runner* at Arizona Theatre Company
- *Oklahoma!* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- The Noguchi Museum, Long Island City, NY
- *Free Shakespeare on the Radio: Richard II*
- Nike Mars Yard 2.5 by Tom Sachs

WELCOMING AUDIENCES TO THE CLASSICS WITH STERLING ARROYO



Aired on August 17, 2021

Guests



Sterling Arroyo

Sterling serves as Shakespeare Dallas' Marketing Manager. She's motivated by showing locals that theatre is for everyone. Sterling is also an actor in the DFW area where you may see her performing Shakespeare in the Bar or playing for laughs at a sketch comedy show.

"Take down that Shakespeare barrier!"

– Sterling Arroyo

Reading List/Classical Resources

- Dallas Shakespeare's website: shakespearedallas.org
- *Shakespeare Decoded Podcast*
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare
- *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield
- Going outside

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define the term classic?
2. How does language and the translation of language affect how a classic is received by an audience?
3. What factors should we look at when producing an old work today?
4. What factors should we think about when casting actors in classic plays?
5. Can a modern work be classic? How so?
6. How do classics change over time?
7. Think of a classic work that impacted your perspective on theater. What aspect of that story affected you and why?
8. How can the classics help support our modern theater creators?
9. How can we ensure the term classic reflects our communities?
10. As theaters return to in-person performance, how should we integrate classic work moving forward?