

EDI FRIDAYS

LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER — ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME



Friday, April 14th, 2023

Learning about each other...one Friday at a time

KNOWLEDGE

DEFINITIONS

ETHNICITY

Ethnicity is your cultural identity whether chosen or learned from your culture and/or family. Ethnicity is a broader category than race and refers to the cultural expression and identification of people of different geographic regions, including customs, history, language, and religion. Some examples of ethnicity include Middle Eastern, Hispanic, Irish, Native American, Jewish, and Pacific Islander.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Ethnicity should enrich us."



"It should make us a unique people in our diversity and not be used to divide us."

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

24th President of Liberia - 2006 to 2018
2011 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

[Biography](#)



Faculty/Staff Spotlight

JADE CINTRÓN BÁEZ
(She/Ella)

Director, Rutgers Community Arts (RCA)
Mason Gross School of the Arts
Rutgers University

[Biography](#)

Hobbies: Rollerblading, running, biking, and traveling

"I do equity work because I want to be a part of building solid, clear pathways to more opportunities for people who've faced hurdles otherwise."

"Equity work is essential to me because it is what we need to make our micro-communities truly reflective of the greater world around us."

Student Spotlight

JOCELYNN HUNTER DOW

(She/Her)

Sophomore, Mason Gross School of the Arts

~Student in the Honors College~

*Major | **Visual Arts - Painting***

*Minors | **Creative Writing, Africana Studies***

*Hometown | **Freehold, NJ***

*Hobbies | **Writing poetry and short stories, video games, chess***



"Fighting for equity is important to me because I have benefited and had opportunities because of the fight for equity others before me made."

"It is my obligation to my ancestors."

"This fight for equity must be fought and won by every generation, and I am committed to doing my part."



Artist Spotlight

CHANTAL JEAN-PIERRE

(She/Her)

Actor, MFA

*Mason Gross School of the Arts
Rutgers University*

Biography

As a seasoned actress with over two decades of stage and screen experience under her belt, **Chantal** excels in roles where the characters possess a pillar of strength with commanding intelligence.

Her personal journey as a small child from the republic of Haiti to the global-melting pot on the coastal shores of Miami, perhaps, infused her

deep love of language. The calling to tell stories led to undergraduate acting training at Florida International University, and then on to New Jersey to obtain her Acting MFA at Rutgers University.



Chantal as Mrs. Gibbs in New Miami Drama's production of Our Town, with Cuban and Haitian families.

Why is it important for you to perform the classics?

"Normally, the classics are seen by white people with a very Eurocentric lens. When I'm cast in a Shakespeare play it's because it's important to break the cycle. Classical language can withstand any accent or background. Although skin color is different and our backgrounds are different, the human experience is the same. The story of my character's journey is just as valid regardless of my complexion. We are more similar than different—we all bleed the same color.



Chantal as Cleopatra at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

What were some of the performances that had an impact on you?

"Oh, well, I did Cleopatra twice, so that comes to my mind first. And I haven't done Lady MacBeth yet, but I don't dream of roles. There's a part of my artistry that roles come at the appropriate time."

"Playing Cleopatra is so significant because you and Antony are carrying the show. The couple have to be of one mind in terms of the story we're trying to tell. Both of the Antony's were 2 different people, but I am depending on my Antony for this kinesthetic balance."



Orlando Shakespeare Festival -



Cincinnati Shakespeare Company -

"Chantal's magnificent, mercurial Cleopatra [is] a girl at heart, with emotions that change on a dime and also a woman so strong and serene that she embraces death with a smile. It's a charismatic performance." – Orlando Sentinel

"Chantal...is mesmerizing, as she creates a beautiful alpha woman who rules an Empire and lives fully." – Liz Eichler, reviewer for League of Cincinnati Theaters

King Lear at The Folgers in Washington, D.C.

"André DeShields was Lear. I played Goneril– people say she's mean, but she is passionate. I had to find her desire because we were both pursuing the same guy. I was accidentally slapped by André. And it hurt. I was fighting to stay focused to get the story out. Audience didn't know what was going on though.



André DeShields as King Lear and Chantal as his daughter, Goneril

Twelfth Night at NY Classical Theater

"Since it was outdoors in Central Park, that got to be taxing. Like walking on wet grass after it rained earlier, but I enjoyed it. It's Shakespeare. His language is like eating delicious food with different tastes and spices. A worldly plate of delicious cuisine."



*"Ms. Jean-Pierre makes Olivia's surprisingly revived man-craziness endearing."
– The New York Times*

You performed in the west coast premiere of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize winning play Fairview. What was that experience like?

"During the closing moments of *Fairview*, the main character breaks the 4th wall to speak directly to the audience about how black people need to tell their own stories and how white people need to participate as listeners. Then white audience members are asked to come on stage while the black cast members go in the theater to join the remaining audience members of color."



"Chantal Jean-Pierre's Jasmine...is a showstopper." - The Mercury News

"The ending of the show was informative for me. When we, the black actors, got to see the level of uncomfortability of the white audience. Watching their reactions was informative. Waffling with decisions on how they processed the play."

"We witnessed them asking themselves if they're racists. Reflecting on their past behavior. They had a myriad of emotional reactions but watching them being watched and "othered" on stage as we sat in the audience with audience members of color. Oh, it was definitely reverberating in their consciousness."

Chantal has taught at numerous reputable training programs, including Mason Gross, Rutgers Summer Acting Conservatory, SUNY/Purchase, Howard University, Brown University, Montclair State, and Duke Ellington Performing Arts High School.



Chantal Jean-Pierre
Acting Teacher

"I'm so moved when students travel to see me perform. They're curious to see how to put it all together. When they see me do it, it seems to make their goals possible, particularly for students of color."

"When you teach students, they take it personal, but it's not personal. I'm trying to improve their work, their technique. They perceive you as mean or unfair but seeing me perform allows them to appreciate how difficult it is to get there. And it changes the relationship so that they can better accept what you have to say. Your teaching becomes more relevant after they've seen your work."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Rutgers Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Climate Survey

[Link to survey](#)

Direct questions about the survey to support@srsrv.com or 734-527-2199

MGSA Inclusive Community Award

Now accepting nominations - Deadline: April 15, 2023

Given annually to a Mason Gross faculty or staff member who has had an extraordinary impact in fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment for our school.

[See here for instructions.](#)

Deadline: April 17, 2023

Grants for artists and producers aiming to reimagine the Jewish experience.

[More info.](#)

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS
MGSA BIPOC Student Org E-Board Applications - OPEN NOW

Deadline: April 18, 2023

BIPOC@MGSA is looking for passionate individuals from all sectors of MGSA to join their 2023-2024 E-Board! Access more details and the application below.

[More info.](#)

MGSA Inclusive Teaching Grants

Now accepting applications - Deadline: June 1, 2023

Mason Gross faculty are invited to apply for up to \$2,500 to revise their courses to reflect the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

[See here for instructions.](#)



FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

Newark LGBTQ Film Festival

Friday, April 14-16, 2023, from 4:00-6:00pm

Location: Newark Museum of Art

[More info](#)

Chair Massages for Faculty and Staff

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 4:00-6:00pm

Location: Werblin Recreation Center

[More info](#)

Fatphobia within Asian Identities

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 7:30-9:00pm

Location: Asian-American Cultural Center

[More info](#)

Equity Mindset Workshop Series Strategies for Helping Neurodiverse Students

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 12:00-1:00pm

Location: Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services

[More info](#)

Equity Fundamentals

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 12:00-2:00pm

Location: virtual

[More info](#)

Campus Connect Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training

Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: College Avenue Student Center

[More info](#)

Queer Crafternoons

Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 3:00-5:00pm

Location: Center for Social Justice Education

[More info](#)

CAPS Cares

Drop-in Support for Faculty & Staff

Friday, April 21, 2023, from 1:00-1:50pm

Location: virtual (zoom)

[More info](#)

Faculty "Soul-Saving" Social

Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 4:00-6:00pm

Location: Rutgers Club - Livingston Campus

[More info](#)

Born Free Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 5:30-8:00pm

Location: Rutgers Cinema - Livingston Campus

[More info](#)

Creating Change Symposium 2023
"Collective Liberation for the NJ Arts Community"

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 9:30am-5:00pm

Location: Count Basie Theater (Red Bank, NJ)

[More info](#)