

The COLLEGIATE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2014



HAMLET

Comes to Town

Alumni Call

Objectification of the
Black Woman explored in

School of Drama's **VENUS**

EMCVPA A TOON BOOM

Centre of Excellence



Edna Manley College
of the Visual and Performing Arts

Greetings



Welcome to another school year and another issue of our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Collegiate*, which, one year ago, we decided to create as a “little sister” to our popular *Collage Magazine* (which, by the way, is in a space near you or online at www.emc.edu.jm). In this issue of *The Collegiate*, we highlight The Arts Foundation of the Edna Manley College, who recently hosted a staging of *Globe to Globe Hamlet* at the Little Theatre as a fundraising effort for the College. We celebrate the hardworking members of the Foundation who selflessly give of their time and resources to support the College in all its endeavors and allow our students to realize their

full potential through the provision of scholarships and bursaries.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported our initiatives over the last academic year and encourage you to continue to support the arts through scholarship, mentorship, sponsorship and partnership.

Please send us your comments on any feature that you find interesting or your suggestions. Good reading!

One love

Coleen Douglas
Marketing and Public Relations
Manager, EMCVPA

From the Principal's Desk



Dear EMCVPA Alumni,

When you reminisce about your alma mater, the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (EMCVPA) or the Cultural Training Centre (CTC), what floods your mind? What do you remember most? Do you remember your friends, faculty, or the many varied experiences? Do you remember the passion that kept you for hours over the drawing board, in the studio or practicing those scales? When you go back to that place of larger than life dreams, where your goal was to graduate so that you can change the world with theories of art and cultural repositioning, what do you see?

Do you ever think about and appreciate the vision and conviction

that one had to have had to create a space for the co-existence of the visual and performing arts in a 1970s Jamaica/Caribbean? This is a powerful concept beyond measure. Men and women were able to dream of a home for Caribbean visual and performing arts, embracing and promoting indigenous arts and culture, and take the risks to create an arts institution in 1976, that has remained the only one of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean.

My EMCVPA Alumni, we are the recipients of larger than life dreams. The creation of the CTC, now the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, was not by happenstance. It was a vision shared, accepted, embraced and worked. How have we sustained this dream and a

work that began in 1976 to further impact generations to come? What is your contribution to furthering this vision?

On November 15, 2014, another group of great artistes, and I daresay dreamers, would have taken risks, struggled through the times, and strengthened self and art. What will you do now, not only with your arts degree, but with the heritage that has become you?

I take this opportunity to salute our EMCVPA Alumni, in particular those who are on Faculty and Staff, and encourage you to dream dreams that will scare you.

Please remember you can reach me anytime by dropping a line to principal@emc.edu.jm.

Sincerely,
Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, PhD

Oswald Mattis
Cleve Bowen
Patrick Earle
Michael Fletcher
Kay Anderson
Donnette Zacca
Omari Ra
Robert Hall
Necon Bailey
Laura Lee Jones
Carol Hamilton
Michael Layne
Vilya Thomas
Phillip Thomas
Susan Lee-Quee
Alice Berry-Gayle
Judith Salmon
Phillip Supersad
Onieka Russell
Calvin Mitchell
Eugene Williams
Roger Williams
Katrina Coombs
Norma Harrack
Asha Giwa-Agbomeirele
Stanford Watson
Simone Llewellyn
Neila Ebanks
Sophia McKain
Robert Clarke
Conrad Hartley
Khalfani Ra
Andre Adman
Robert Archer
Winston Campbell
Raymond Watson
Miriam Smith
Paula Daley
Kerry-Ann Henry
Stacy Banton
Coleen Douglas
Janet Muirhead Stewart
Denise Forbes-Erikson
Denise Salmon
Peter Omal
Oneil Pryce
Shauna Gaye Murray-Coke
Coretta Brown-Johnson
Stephan Clarke

This list is in no means inexhaustible.

'Arts Baby' now 'Mother of Arts'...

Miriam Smith is our featured faculty

Miriam Smith is the newly appointed Director of the School of Visual Arts. She graduated from the School of Art in 1991 and was awarded a scholarship by the French government to pursue postgraduate studies in Textile Design and Industrial Applications at Mulhouse, the textile firm in Alsace, France. She later attended the Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, England and graduated with a MA in Textile Design and Fashion. She also became a Chevening scholar in 1997 when she was awarded the scholarship from the UK government.

As Director of the School of Visual Arts, Mrs. Smith is really at home in a place where she was nurtured as a student and later as a young member of staff. Vice Principal of Academic Studies, Carol "Annie" Hamilton, who taught Miriam shares that "she was an excellent choice as a leader... she is committed, her integrity is impeccable and her commitment to student success is second to none".

Miriam sees it as quite a privilege to be Director of her alma mater and is "ready for the challenge of guiding young artist in becoming



great artists." She is particularly excited about "participating in the structuring of programmes that are relevant and will aid in the development of Visual Arts at the tertiary level in the Caribbean."

We wish Mrs. Smith all the best in her new job!

EMCVPA is a **TOON BOOM** Centre of Excellence

The EMCVPA is now an official Toon Boom Centre of Excellence, offering a six-month certification in 2D Animation. Toon Boom Centres are recognized worldwide as powerful incubators,empowering educational institutions and their students with the creative and technological tools and skills to excel within the digital content and animation marketplace.

From digital storyboarding to animation production, the integration of the Toon Boom

pipeline into the curriculum enhances students' learning experiences and provides them with industry best practices. Instructors benefit from access to exclusive quarterly training seminars,annual refresher seminars and priority participation in local Toon Boom workshops, product presentations,and more.

The School of Visual Arts has offered courses in Animation since 2004, when it began offering Bachelor of

Fine Arts Degree programmes. These courses were offered through the Visual Communication Department as part of the BFA Programme, and were accessed by students in all Departments. Animation has also been developed in courses in the Fine Arts Department,with students being introduced to Time-based Media in their first year of study, as well as other courses in New Media in the four-year BFA programmes. Although the School does not yet offer a degree programme

in Animation, its graduates have produced works of a high standard, reflective of a passion for Animation.

GSW Animation, which is the largest Animation studio in Jamaica, has employed several graduates of the BFA Degree programme.

Among these are Kori Thompson and Crystal Paul, both of whom were original members of GSW when it was formed in 2012, and are now employed as Production Supervisors. Howard Hamilton, another notable graduate, currently supervises Animation production

at CVM Television in Kingston. Dale Bedasse, a 2010 graduate, was awarded second prize in the Kingstoon Animation Festival, and was selected to spearhead teaching Animation at the secondary level.

The Arts Foundation of the Edna Manley College

A Wind Beneath our Wings

The Arts Foundation of the Edna Manley College was incorporated on December 15, 2008, as an autonomous non-profit organization, to attract the necessary support and assistance that will facilitate the activities of the College and provide support through scholarships and grants to students.

The Foundation has hosted three major fundraising events including a concert featuring internationally acclaimed Jamaican born bass-baritone, Sir Willard White in 2010, and in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish-Jamaican Foundation, Spain-based CMS Trio with dancer Sara Ferreiro in 2012. These events allowed them to award over 17 scholarships over two years, each valued at least \$150,000.

Their most recent fundraising activity was the staging of the play Hamlet played by Shakespeare's Globe players at the Little Theatre. The Arts Foundation is served by some dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and resources to ensure that they fill the ever expanding gap between the government's subvention and fees and the development needs of the College and students. Members of the current board are: Ms. Pat Ramsay, Chairman (on leave), Ms. Barbara Alexander, acting Chair and Directors, Mr. Leslie Chang, Mr. Jeffrey Facey, Mrs. Camille Facey, Mr. Jeffrey Cobham, Mr. Earl Jarrett and Secretary, Mrs. Terri-Ann Gibbs.



L to R: Barbara Alexander, Terri-Ann Gibbs, Camille Facey and Dr. Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson



L to R: Scholarship recipients Nadette Grant, Deidre McKenzie, Joshua Jones and Richard Campbell receiving scholarship letters from Her Excellency Celsa Nuño, Ambassador of Spain to Jamaica and President of The Spanish-Jamaican Foundation, alongside Vice Principal, Miss Denise Salmon, Arts Foundation Directors, Mr. Stephen Facey and Mrs. Camille Facey and Arts Foundation Chair, Mrs. Pat Ramsay

Globe to Globe Hamlet

*Of carnal, bloody,
and unnatural acts,
Of accidental judgments,
casual slaughters,
Of deaths put on by cunning and
forced cause,
And, in this upshot,
purposes mistook
Fall'n on th' inventors' heads*

Hamlet Act 5, Scene 2

The Arts Foundation of the Edna Manley College and First Global Bank with partners Jamaica National, Surrey Paving and the Pan Jamaican Investment Trust joined the world in celebration of Shakespeare's 450th Anniversary with a staging of Shakespeare's Globe to Globe Hamlet at the Little Theatre on **Tuesday, August 26th, 2014**. The Little Theatre had absolutely no room left as the house was fully sold earning the Arts Foundation of the Edna Manley College just over 2.7 million dollars which will benefit students at the College through the awarding of bursaries and scholarships.

The small-scale production, which toured the UK, Europe and the United States in 2011 and 2012, is a fresh version of Shakespeare's classic tragedy of deferred revenge that emphasizes the play's humour and celebrates the exuberance and invention of its language. A new cast of just eight actors will perform over two dozen parts on a stripped-down booth stage in a brisk two hours and forty minutes. The New York Times applauded "**a production that prizes efficiency, clarity, accessibility and above all energy**", the Mexican newspaper La Jornada called it "**bright, light and nimble**" and in

Austria Die Presse described it as "**boisterous, funny, fast-paced and highly musical**", while the Daily Telegraph praised its "**young, unjaded and open-hearted**" portrayal of the Danish prince.

Attendees included the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Hon. Portia Simpson Miller and the British High Commissioner, His Excellency David Fitton.



R to L: Dr. DeGrasse-Johnson, Principal alongside His Excellency David Fitton, British High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, Julia Sutherland





The School of Drama opens its season with two plays :

“Venus” by Suzan-Lori Parks and Derek Walcott’s “Dream on Monkey Mountain”

Venus is the story of Sarah Saartjie Baartman, a young woman of Khoisan heritage who in 1810, is taken from her South African homeland to be showcased as an oddity and curiosity in London and later Paris, under the appellation, ‘Hottentot Venus’. Parks juxtaposes Baartman’s sensuality, sexuality and femininity with her objectification, fetishization and exoticization. Parks’ unique dialogue creates moments that will leave you laughing, cringing, troubled and in true Brechtian style, thrust you into the jarringly strange.

We see Baartman eventually emerge in all her show-ready glory. What her dress reveals are the burdens of history embodied by one woman. This is not merely the story of a woman with a large posterior, this is the story of a woman who is abducted (though

seemingly complicit) from her homeland and is completely ‘othered’ in Europe where she is abused, treated like an animal and after five brutal years dies, unmourned. She dies after a miserable and poor existence in 1815 at the tender age of 25. Even in death her body does not belong to her as she is dissected by Dr. Georges Cuvier and her skeleton is later exhibited in the Musee de l’Homme in Paris.

Some one hundred years later, her remains were eventually returned to South Africa in 2002 and her grave in Hankey in the Eastern Cape has since become an official heritage site. Giving Saartjie something she was never afforded in her short life...dignity.

Lecturer in the School of Drama, Alude Mahali, who directed the play is a native of South Africa and

shares that it was very important for her to share this story and is very pleased with the students’ performance. Stylistically, the play is very rich with a chorus who moves the story along in a comical way and doubles up as oddities on showcase. The intrusive narration of the negro ‘resurrectionist’ who though quite intrusive as she announces the scenes and reads historical facts throughout adds humour and political correctness. We might have to ask for a re-run for those of you who might have missed it!

Venus Final Weekend
October 31 – November 2, 2014

COMING SOON!

‘Dream on A Monkey Mountain’, the Caribbean classic written by Derrick Walcott, is being directed by the award winning Trevor Nairne. Popular actor, Christopher McFarlane, who attended the School of Drama, takes the lead role, Makak. Dream on Monkey Mountain runs for two weekends, November 7-9 and 14-16.

The poster features the School of Drama logo at the top left, which includes a stylized figure of a person with a staff. To the right of the logo is the text 'School of Drama' and 'EDRHA MANLEY COLLEGE OF THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS'. A yellow box in the top right corner contains the text 'NOVEMBER 7-9 & 14-16'. The main title 'Derek Walcott's DREAM ON MONKEY MOUNTAIN' is written in large, bold, dark green letters. Below the title, the subtitle '... A Rastafarian Meditation' is written in a cursive script.



Scenes from School of Drama's **Venus** at the Dennis Scott Studio Theatre

THE VINE



1: Petrona Morrison receiving her Gold Musgrave Medal

2: Miss Morrison (centre) during this year's Musgrave Medals Award Ceremony

3: Kay Anderson, faculty member, EMCVPA

4: Kay Anderson (centre) surrounded by (from left) Carol "Annie Hamilton", VP, Academics and Technical Studies, Petrona Morrison, former Director, School of Visual Arts and Dr Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, Principal

5: Laura Facey, alumna, EMCVPA

The EMCVPA congratulates member of faculty, Kay Anderson and alumna, Laura Facey, who recently received National Honours at Kings House on National Heroes Day, October 20, 2014.

Laura Facey, who graduated in 1975 from the School of Visual Arts and popularly known for her work – "Redemption Song" in Emancipation Park, received the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander for her exceptional achievements in the field of Arts.

Kay Yvonne Anderson received the Order of Distinction in the rank of Officer class for outstanding community service and contribution in the field of education.

More recently, Petrona Morrison, former Director of the School of Visual Arts, was awarded a Gold Musgrave Medal for distinguished eminence in the field of Art and Art Education from the Institute of Jamaica. Our congratulations to Ms. Morrison on her latest achievement.



School of Dance Faculty Concert

The School of Dance Faculty show highlighted works of Lecturer and alumnus, Oneil Pryce under the theme, 'And I Found Myself Here?'

We share an excerpt from his artist statement:

Sifting through my creative memories, pressing rewind, I can pause and play a series of events where my feelings and self-image were nothing more than the shell of what others thought of me and what I created...I was riding upon the waves of thoughts, compliments and stereotypes that surrounded my artistic practice, process and output.

My mind, so ignorant and proud at times, allowed societal expectations to cage my complete self-discovery from flowing from the depths of my thoughts and into my artistic space. I was what I thought I should be, and the energy driving my life and the days and nights in between, was fueled by fulfilling my societal roles, and making others happy.

My choreographic work was constantly coming up against the criticism of those who believed it lacked a Caribbean identity. For years, this affected my confidence. Each time I made a work I was always fearful of what an audience might think about it, to the point where I ended up having a serious dislike for my own work; it took me a while to understand what this meant. Very recently I discovered why it was important for me to dislike the work first... so that when it other persons did it was easier to release as I had already forced myself into thinking I hated my own work.

For many years I have tried to shed my own creative identity to fit into the mold of being identified as a 'Caribbean artist'. But why, I asked myself, would I strive to be none of which I am? Have become? Where this path was headed to?

After lots of soul searching and reflecting, I concluded my work is indeed Caribbean because, being born Jamaican and the vessel from which this/my creative process is harnessed how can I separate my Caribbean identity from my artistic output? The truth is I have just chosen to express this identity through different lenses; ultimately we are a sum total of all our experiences.

In my artistic truth, I have battled the odds I have created. I have hated it, I have loved it, I have used it as a cathartic experience. I am now at the point of myself and artistic acceptance. My artistic voice too is important. The language in which it speaks might not be understood or appreciated by all who encounter it, yet it is still important. So here I am back to the space I was trying to internally avoid, embracing it, sharing it and living it. My heart and art are now collaborating and no longer colliding.

Campus Events



Language Day was observed on October 16, 2014 at EMCVPA with a potpourri of cultural delight including the Charles Town maroons who shared the maroon traditions in our Kulcha Yaad. Organized by the School of Arts Management and Humanities, the event included a keynote address delivered by Professor Brian Heap whose address looked at words and expressions specific to the visual and performing arts. Professor Hubert Devonish later shared a paper on "Jumieka tu di worl: Jamaican language in International Music and Sports, while Colonel Frank Lumsden from the Charles Town Maroons, complete with his abeng call, made a presentation about the languages of the maroons to the captive audience. Entertainment at Kulcha Yard in the afternoon included Amina Blackwood Meeks, poets Cherry Natural, and Ardenne High School drummers.



Upcoming Events

Graduation 2014 has a new venue

Under the theme, 'I Shape U...U shape I', Graduation 2014 will be held in an intimate setting in the Vera Moody Concert Hall on Saturday November 15, 2014 beginning at 2:00 pm. The ceremony will showcase the talents and creative genius of Pierre LeMaire and Ibo Cooper, both artistic directors for the show. This year's guest speaker will be Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Chief, United Nations Academic Impact Secretariat.

School of Music Faculty Show

The School of Music Faculty Show will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2014 featuring School of Music Director, Roger Williams on piano and lecturer, Rafael Salazar on the clarinet.

EMCVPA participates in Kingston Music Week with a tribute to reggae greats.

EMCVPA joins the RJR Communications Group in observation of Kingston Music Week with a concert that pays tribute to music greats Gregory Isaacs, Marcia Griffiths and John Holt on Thursday December 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with headlining acts Pentateuch, Uprising Roots, Nature, Jermaine Blake as well as students from School of Music.

Ananse Soundsplash:

Storytelling Conference & Festival

NOVEMBER 19TH – 22ND

Coming to the Dennis Scott Studio Theatre on November 20, 2014
12:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Singing in the Christmas

Carol Service will be held on Sunday, November 30, 2014 featuring the EMCVPA Choir.

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