

arts
at Williams

FRI & SAT | OCT 2 & 3 | 7PM | VIRTUAL

62

THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT

BFE: A ZOOM
STAGED
READING

BFE BY JULIA CHO

DIRECTED BY PETER MATSUMOTO '20.5

62CENTER.WILLIAMS.EDU

Williams Theatre Department

presents

BFE **by Julia Cho**

Directed by
Peter Matsumoto '20.5

Sound Design by
Maria Rodriguez Hertz '21

Intimacy Choreography by
Alex Sovronsky

Performers
Minsuh Choi '23, Richie Jacobson '22, Young Wuk Jung '21
Charlie Kerzner '23, Elizabeth Letsou '23, Craig Martien '23
Onyeka Obi '21, Vanessa Silva '23, Christina Zhou '23

Stage Manager
Raphael Rakosi-Schmidt '23

Production Manager
Ann Marie Dorr

World premiere production presented by Long Wharf Theatre,
Gordon Edelstein, Artistic Director; Michael Stotts, Managing Director on
April 20, 2005.

New York premiere presented by Playwright Horizons,
Tim Sanford, Artistic Director; Leslie Marcus, Managing Director on
May 31, 2005.

Developed by the Cape Cod Theatre.

Originally commissioned by the New York Theatre Workshop
with additional development by center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum's
Asian Theatre Workshop in Los Angeles.

The performance runs 1 hour and 45 minutes. There is no intermission.

Company

Christina Zhou '23..... Panny
Elizabeth Letsou '23..... Isabel
Young Wuk Jung '21..... Lefty
Onyeka Obi '21..... Evvie
Richie Jacobson '22..... Hugo
Craig Martien '23..... Jack/The General
Minsuh Choi '23..... Hae Yoon
Charlie Kerzner '23..... The Man
Vanessa Silva '23..... Nancy

Characters

Panny: Fourteen. Asian American
Isabel: Panny's mother, thirties. Asian-American.
Lefty: Isabel's brother. A few years older than Isabel. Asian-American.
Evvie: Short for Evelyn. Forty. African-American
Hugo: Twenty. White.
Jack/The General: A young white male.
Hae Yoon: Fourteen. Asian.
The Man: A man of indeterminate age. Absolutely charming.
Nancy: Fifteen. Blonde.

Place

B.F.E

Time

Late Nineties

BFE contains descriptions of acts of graphic physical and sexual violence and portrays mental health issues in young people including depression and agoraphobia.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I first encountered *BFE* when an acting coach assigned me a scene in the play in high school. Julia Cho's words cut right to the core of how I was feeling in that moment of time - alone, unsure of myself, and as if I had no one to honestly confide in. During my time at Williams, as an Asian-American, I felt the ghosts of that time returning to haunt me, and I knew that the play was something that I needed to return to, this time with a different perspective. Williams, and Williamstown by extension, is an isolated place where the pain of the bubble is felt and embodied by many PoC on campus. Now, with the addition of our global pandemic, there are very few people who haven't felt intense isolation. It is my hope that parts of Panny's journey resonate with our own histories in a way that allows us to engage with that history from a point of distance and compassion for our former selves.

-Peter Matsumoto

BIOS

Minsuh Choi '23 (Hae Yoon) is from Seoul, Korea and a prospective Theatre and Economics double major. Past theatre credits at Williams include *Following Waxwing* (Lynn) and *Spring Awakening* (Anna). She performed in *The Celestials* (Ensemble) at Mass MoCA and serves on the board of Cap & Bells.

Richie Jacobson '22 (Hugo) is a Psychology major from Duxbury, Massachusetts. Past theater credits at Williams include *Mr. Burns* (Gibson) and *Chastens and Hastens* (Fred). This is his first Zoom production.

Young Wuk (Woogie) Jung '21 (Lefty) is a Theater major from Seoul, South Korea. Past theater credits at Williams include Cap & Bells' *A Little Night Music* (Fredrik) and *Spring Awakening* (Melchior).

Charlie Kerzner '23 (The Man) is a Russian major from Sheffield, Massachusetts. Charlie originated the role of Gus the Bus in a workshop production of *In the Morning, Ice*.

Elizabeth Letsou '23 (Isabel) is a Psychology major from New York. Before playing Isabel in *BFE*, Elizabeth helped to write, direct, and act in a student-produced short film *Meet in the Middle*, in which she played the protagonist Hannah. In her free time, she enjoys reading and photography.

Craig Martien '23 (Jack/The General) is a prospective Political Science and Spanish double major from Mayo, MD. He previously appeared in the 2019 Purple Valley Play Festival (*Honey, Sarge*) and Cap and Bells' *Spring Awakening* (Otto).

Peter Matsumoto '20.5 (Director) is a Theatre major from Los Angeles, CA. He was a Co-Artistic Director of Cap & Bells for the '19-'20 Season and a member of STUDIO'62 during Summer 2019. Past directing credits include *The Man Who Turned Into a Stick* and *Dynamics*.

Onyeka Obi '21 (Evvie) is an American Studies and Economics double major from Hawthorne, CA. She has been involved with various theatrical and comedic initiatives on campus.

Raphael Rakosi-Schmidt '23 (Stage Manager) is a prospective Biology and Theatre double major from northern New Jersey. Past theatre credits at Williams include *Orange* (R) as well as Cap & Bells' *Spring Awakening* (Georg) and *A Little Night Music* (Assistant Director). He will be directing one of the upcoming *Radio Dramas*.

Vanessa Silva '23 (Nancy) is a prospective Theatre and English double major and Latinx 8Studies concentrator from New Jersey. Previous Williams credits include: *Following Waxwing* (chorus/choreographer), *Hazelnut at a Back Bank* (Cy), and *I Should Laugh at You Both* (Marla). She is also the co-founder of the Williams Burlesque Club.

Maria Rodriguez Hertz '21 (Sound Design) is a Math and Theatre double major from State College, PA. Past credits include *Following Waxwing* (Sound Designer), *Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Mother Teresa) and Cap & Bells' *Noises Off* (Stage Manager). This is her second year serving on the board of Cap & Bells.

Christina Zhou '23 (Panny) is a prospective Economics major. She is from Columbia, Maryland and loves to bake, paint, and longboard. This is her first theatrical production.

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### **Special Thanks**

I would like to offer special thanks to Brooke Flagler, Shanti Pillai, and everyone else whose invisible hands helped shape this project from beginning to end.

# Featured Upcoming Events:

the  
green  
room

a peaceful space for  
progressive minds

## Erica Hart

### Preparing Yourself for a Career in Performing Arts



**Saturday  
October 3, 2020  
3pm**

**A SESSION VIA ZOOM**

**link available at:  
[theatre.williams.edu/  
the-green-room/](https://theatre.williams.edu/the-green-room/)**

**E**ERICA A. HART, CSA (Casting Professional / Producer) graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she studied film and television. She has been casting for over 10 years on many high profile projects. She started off in network and studio casting moving her way up to Casting Coordinator in the New York Office of ABC Primetime Casting. In 2014, Erica appeared in The Hollywood Reporter as a featured rising artist. She has cast projects that have screened at the Tribeca Film Festival, SXSW, Outfest, Cinequest, and the Cannes Film Festival and are streaming on Netflix and Amazon. THE SURROGATE (a film she cast as well as associate produced)

was in INDIEWIRE's Best Movies Eligible for a 2021 Oscar and was a VARIETY CRITICS PICK. She has cast commercials for high-end brands such as Maybelline, Gillette, Hasbro, and Delta, to name a few. She has also collaborated with The National Black Theatre and has cast a handful of their productions. Currently, Erica is the Casting Associate for "Ray Donovan" (Showtime), "The Bold Type" (Freeform), "Defending Jacob" (Apple), and "Godfather of Harlem" (Epix). Outside of casting, she has received grants and awards from the Puffin Foundation, New York Television Festival and The Digital Bolex, in addition to developing new serieses for BET and WeTV.

'62

arts  
at Williams

FRI-SUN | OCT 2-4

2PM, 3:30PM, 5PM, 6:30PM, & 8PM | VIRTUAL

62

CENTERSERIES PRESENTS

600 HIGHWAYMEN

# A THOUSAND WAYS

PART 1: A PHONE CALL.

ONE HOUR. TWO STRANGERS.

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

62CENTER.WILLIAMS.EDU

PHOTO BY MARIA BARANOVA

## **THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF**

Sound and Media Supervisor .....Jim Abdou  
Professor of Theatre .....Robert Baker-White  
Costume Shop Manager.....Barbara A. Bell  
Administrative Coordinator .....Laurie Booth  
Costume Director and Lecturer in Theatre.....Deborah A. Brothers  
Patron and Visiting Artist Services Mgr. (on leave) .....Corissa Bryant  
William Dwight Whitney Professor of  
Arts and Theatre, Emeritus.....Jean-Bernard Bucky  
Production Manager .....Ann Marie Dorr  
Theater Technician.....Ethan Eldred  
Professor of Theatre, Emeritus .....David Eppel  
Visiting Artist Producer and Outreach Manager .....Randal Fippinger  
Associate Professor of Theatre.....David Gürçay-Morris  
Professor of Theatre .....Amy Holzapfel  
Visiting Lecturer in Theatre .....Carolyn Mraz  
Career Program Director and Mentor,  
Studio'62 Artistic Program Director.....Kevin O'Rourke  
Assistant Costume Shop Manager.....Samantha E. Patterson  
Senior Lecturer in English and Theatre .....James Pethica  
Assistant Professor of Theatre .....Shanti Pillai  
Technical Director of the Theatre Department .....Maia Robbins-Zust  
Chair and Professor of Theatre .....Omar Sangare  
Visiting Lecturer in Theatre .....Ren Dara Santiago  
Interim Patron and Visiting Artist Services  
Manager and House Manager .....Emma Whittum  
Operations Manager, Dance Technical Director,  
and Presenting Production Manager.....Nathaniel T. Wiessner

Student marketing and outreach support: Abigail Murray-Stark '22