

USC School  
of Dramatic Arts

# OTHELLO



By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Kate Burton  
Bing Theatre **February 27-March 1, 2020**

# OTHELLO

By **William Shakespeare**

With

**Oscar González**

**Lorena E. Gonzalez**

**Michael Howard-Dossett\***

**Stephen Humes\***

**Charrell Mack**

**Cameron Murphy**

**Kumar Rohit**

**Jalen Stewart**

**Galen J. Williams\***

Scenic Design

**Qixing Tong**

Costume Design

**Howard Schmitt**

Lighting Design

**Eliot Ohlemeyer**

Sound Design

**Joy Cheever**

Stage Manager

**Megan M. Burns**

Directed by **Kate Burton**

Bing Theatre **February 27–March 1, 2020**

\*Michael Howard-Dossett, Stephen Humes, and Galen J. Williams appear in this production courtesy of the Actor's Equity Association.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

**Roderigo**

Oscar González

**Montano/Bianca/First Senator**

**Officer/Servant**

Lorena E. Gonzalez

**Duke/Grattiano/Officer/Gentleman**

Michael Howard-Dossett\*

**Iago**

Stephen Humes\*

**Desdemona/Second Senator**

**Officer/Servant**

Charrell Mack

**Emilia/Messenger/Officer/Sailor**

Cameron Murphy

**Othello**

Kumar Rohit

**Cassio**

Jalen Stewart

**Barbantio/Lodovico/Gentleman**

Galen J. Williams\*

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Time: **A long time ago**

Place: ACT I: **Venice** | ACT II-V: **Cyprus**

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF

Asst. Directors **Ian Stewart Riley, Ben Wendel** | Asst. Stage Managers **Tina Archer,**

**Erin Newsom** | Asst. Costume Designers **Sophia Grose, Tanner Jackson**

Asst. Lighting Designer **Arturo Fernandez Jr.** | Assoc. Sound Designer **Alex Atalla**

Fight Choreography **Edgar Landa** | Crew **Jennifer Arias, Allyse Besne,**

**Brandon Borkowsky, Jamie Donovan, Alyssa Heyer, Dominique Jakowec,**

**Bebe Katsenes, Jamie Kichuk, Brett Landin, Gemma Leopold Needle,**

**Emily McDougal, Jonathan Pelster, Jenna Ross, Olivia Singer, Rosa Singerman,**

**Seeret Singh, Kylee Thurman, Gregg Ward**

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## WARNING

Please be advised that this production contains mature themes and violence, and theatrical weapons.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

**William Shakespeare** is considered the greatest playwright in the English language, and *Othello* is considered one of his four greatest tragedies: along with *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear*. The Elizabethan *Hamlet* changed the face of theater, and the Jacobean *Othello*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear* were written in fairly quick succession and were each staggering achievements. The history of *Othello* in production is an interesting one, as for hundreds of years the character of *Othello*, the Moor, was often played by white actors who would create their Othellos with makeup and characterization; two famous examples are Laurence Olivier and my father, Richard Burton. In 2020, the role of *Othello* is rightly only ever played by actors of color, and nine wonderful actors in the second year MFA class at USC play all the indelible characters in this majestic play; we also have a male actor playing a female role (as did

Shakespeare's all male company in the original production) and our female actors playing male roles. We currently live in a country and a world where fear of "the other" is prevalent. With *Othello*, Shakespeare creates a story where he pits the general, Othello, "the other," against an elitist Venetian society when he secretly marries the Venetian aristocrat, Desdemona. He is reluctantly accepted because of his military prowess, only to be outwitted by his duplicitous ensign, Iago, whose bitterness at being passed over as Othello's lieutenant ignites a trajectory that ends in tragedy; a tragedy that, as Iago says, "will enmesh them all." Shakespeare writes for both his and our time, constantly amazing us with the universality of his stories. We are blessed to be able to explore this work of genius and present it to you with vigor and passion. Welcome to Venice and Cyprus and to the world of *Othello*.

## DIRECTOR'S BIO

**Kate Burton**, a professor of the practice at USC, has directed the USC School of Dramatic Arts BFAs in *Twelfth Night* and in Gorky's *Children of the Sun*. She also directed Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, as well as *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull* for USC's MFA Rep. Burton has directed three evenings of Shakespeare/Tchaikovsky for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. As an actress, she has most recently appeared in *Coriolanus* and *Cymbeline* at NYC's Delacorte Theater in Central Park and played Prospera in *The Tempest* at San Diego's The Old Globe. A three-time Tony nominee, she has appeared in 12 Broadway productions as well as Off-Broadway, Williamstown, Bay Street, Boston's Huntington Avenue Theatre and Los Angeles' The Ahmanson and Mark Taper Forum. A three-time Emmy nominee, she is best known for her work on *Scandal* and *Grey's Anatomy*. She is a graduate of Brown and The Yale School of Drama.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Sabrina Sonner, Gianluca Cosentino, Katie Newsom, Emerson Taylor

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Located in Los Angeles, a city synonymous with artistic innovation and excellence, the top-ranked **USC School of Dramatic Arts** is a leader in dramatic arts education. The School uniquely blends artistic training in a conservatory environment with world-class faculty artists and the full academic experience found only within a major research university. This close-knit, supportive environment offers students the freedom to explore their artistic passions. Through programs of the highest caliber, as well as initiatives that provide access to professional experience, students are prepared for leadership in every facet of dramatic arts. For more information, please visit [dramaticarts.usc.edu](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu).

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# USC School of Dramatic Arts 2019/20 Season of Plays



## MFA ACTING YEAR 3 REPERTORY

Scene Dock Theatre  
Feb 7–Mar 8, 2020

### Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)

By Suzan-Lori Parks  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Andrei Belgrader

### Guarded

By Boni B. Alvarez  
Directed by David Warshofsky

### Othello

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Kate Burton  
Bing Theatre | Feb 27–Mar 1

### Camino Real

By Tennessee Williams  
Directed by Edgar Landa  
McClintock Theatre | Mar 5–8

### Fuente Ovejuna: A Disloyal Adaptation

By Cusi Cram  
Directed by Rena Heinrich  
Scene Dock Theatre | Apr 2–5

### The Secret Garden

Book and Lyrics by Marsha  
Norman Music by Lucy Simon  
Based on the novel by  
Frances Hodgson Burnett  
Directed by Kelly Ward  
Bing Theatre | Apr 2–12

### Three Sisters

By Anton Chekhov  
A New Version by Sarah Ruhl  
Based on a literal translation  
by Elise Thoron  
With Natasha Paramonova and  
Kristin Johnsen-Neshati  
Directed by Nancy Cheryl Davis  
Scene Dock Theatre | Apr 23–26

## BFA SOPHOMORE SHOW

### The Winter's Tale

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Kenneth Mitchell  
McClintock Theatre | April 23–26

## NEW WORKS FESTIVALS

### YEAR 1

#### New Play Readings

Presented in association with  
Playwrights' Arena | April

### YEAR 2

#### Playwrights Workshop

Presented in association with  
Latino Theater Company  
Massman Theatre | Apr 11–19

### YEAR 3

#### Play Project

Presented in association with  
the Pasadena Playhouse  
May 22 & 23

## TICKET PRICES

Plays: General \$15, Seniors \$10, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$8  
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