



Columbia School of Arts
MFA Acting Class of 2024
presents

METAMORPHOSES

A new play inspired by Ovid
By Sami Ibrahim, Laura Lomas, Sabrina Mahfouz

Wednesday, March 1st @ 8 pm
Thursday, March 2nd @ 8 pm
Friday, March 3rd @ 8 pm
Saturday, March 4th @ 3:30 pm & 8 pm

The Theatre @ Schapiro

160 Minutes, With Intermission

CONTENT WARNING

Adult themes in this show include explicit language and/or images of violence, sexual violence, drug use, suicide, and death.

The subject matter of this production may be difficult to receive at times. We encourage you to take care of yourself and honor your health, mentally and physically. We want to offer you the space to step out of the theater if necessary. Please step out in between pieces to respect the space and our performers.

Myth Members

ACHILLES - Sarah, Veda

ARACHNE - Evan, Alecsys, Will, Aaron, Mollee, Zack, Emily

ACTAEON - Roberto, Sabrina, Sahil, Julian, Sarah, Revon, Tiffany, Veda

ORPHEUS - Zack

CEPHALUS and PROCRIS - Sahil, Revon

MYRRAH - Sabrina, Tiffany, Veda, Roberto

The MINOTAUR, ARIADNE, THESEUS, and SCYLLA - Veda, Roberto

CAESAR - Aaron

JUNO and JUPITER - Charles, Mollee

EURYDICE - Emily

IO - Aaron, Evan, Zack, Will, Mollee, Charles

PHAETON and PHOEBUS - Tiffany, Sabrina, Veda, Zack, Will

HECUBA, POLYXENA, and POLYDOROUS - Sarah, Mollee, Charles

MIDAS and the Judgement of APOLLO - Julian

MEDEA - Emily

PHILEMON and BAUCIS - Mollee, Charles

PROCNE and PHILOMELA - Revon, Sahil, Sarah, Julian

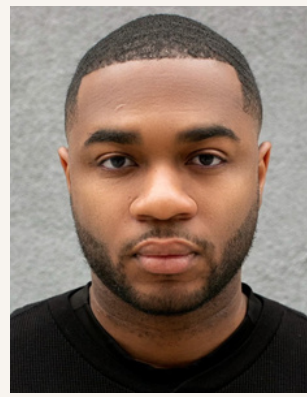
PENTHEUS and BACCHUS - Will

Orpheus and the CICONIAN WOMEN - Alecsys, Emily, Sabrina, Mollee, Sahil, Veda, Tiffany, Sarah, Evan





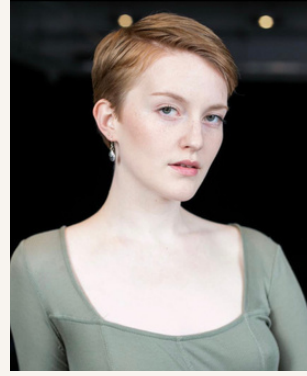
AARON ANDERSON
(he/him) *"I'm from Houston like Beyoncé and nem"...*
 thank you so much for
 coming hope you enjoy our
 play.



WILLIAM APPIAH
(he/him) is an LA native
 and artist that strives to
 create and develop work
 that illuminates the black
 experience in all its shades
 and colors.



VEDA BALDOTA
(she/hers) Theatre credits
 include *Halfway Bitches Go*
Straight To Heaven, Much
Ado About Nothing, The
House of the Spirits.
 Thank you Mom!
 IG: [@vedabaldota](https://www.instagram.com/vedabaldota)



MOLLEE BARSE
(she/hers) "(here is the root
 of the root and the bud of
 the bud and the sky of the
 sky of a tree called
 life; which grows higher
 than soul can hope or mind
 can hide)" - E.E Cummings



EVAN BILLUPS
(she/hers) Recent:
 FRIENDSHIP in *Everybody*
 (Schapiro). BA Yale
 University '20, Columbia
 MFA Acting Candidate '24.
 IG: [@evanbillups](https://www.instagram.com/evanbillups)
www.evanbillups.com



SARAH CHALFIE
(she/hers) Most recent
 Columbia credits include
Halfway Bitches Go Straight
to Heaven and *MoscowX6*.
www.sarahchalfie.com



CHARLES DENTON
(he/they) Grateful above all
 for the loving support from
 mentors, friends and family.
 Proud of my classmates
 whose creativity and
 endurance inspire me daily.
 Thanks to Bridget.



SAHIL KAUR (she/hers)
 is in her 2nd year of
 Columbia's MFA Acting
 program. Recent credits:
Everybody, Two Noble
Kinsmen, Richard III. Thanks
 for all your support!
 IG: [@sahilkaur](https://www.instagram.com/sahilkaur)



EMILY KLEYPAS
(she/hers) Recent: DEATH in
Everybody (Schapiro). Alumni
 of Fiasco Theater's 6WK
 Cons., and Actors Theatre of
 Louisville apprentice program.
 IG: [@ekleypa](https://www.instagram.com/ekleypa)
www.emilykleypas.com



TIFFANY McLARTY
(she/hers) God bless
 the women of Iran.

**ROBERTO PEREZ**

(he/him) I really hope you enjoy this exploration of life, death and everything in between. Good luck!

**ALECSYS PROCTOR -**

TURNER (she/hers) is a Miami gyal! She thanks this amazing cast for their openness to create, and her momma for reminding her everyday that her voice truly matters.

www.alecsyslyrix.com

**ZACK LOPEZ ROA**

(He/Him) is a U.S. Air Force Veteran, a descendant of Cuban Immigrants, and a proud dog dad and husband.

IG: [@zacklopezroa](https://www.instagram.com/zacklopezroa)

**JULIAN SHAHEEN**

(he/him) is originally from Los Angeles. He's been in other plays and even a television show. He's a second-year at Columbia.

**SABRINA VICTOR**

(she/hers) is a performance activist of proud Haitian heritage. *"Honored to tell the stories of those who go unheard. We lift up their voices. For you, Ardlley."*

www.sabrinakvictor.com

**REVON YOUSIF**

(he/him) Born in Detroit, Revon is of Chaldean descent. Before coming to Columbia, Revon lived in Chicago working in film, theatre, and television.

Socials: [@revonyousif](https://www.instagram.com/revonyousif)

**GILLIAN ABBOTT (she/hers)**

Director - is making her directorial debut! Perf. credits: "Baby" in National Broadway tour of *Dirty Dancing*; HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*; Cirque du Soleil's *Beatles LOVE*; The Metropolitan Opera's *Prince Igor* and *Macbeth*; "Masha" in *Three Sisters* at Columbia University. BFA in Dance, The Juilliard School; MFA in Acting, Columbia University.

**JULIAN ABELSKAMP**

(he/him) **Assistant Director** - is an actor and creative based in Los Angeles. He's thrilled to have had the chance to return to Columbia and play around with this wonderful group of artists for a few weeks.

www.julianabelskamp.com

A Note on Translation

-By Sami Ibrahim, Laura Lomas, Sabrina Mahfouz

Skin

23 mentions of skin

where to begin

begin with a cow

black and white

or brown

Io

a woman turned into a cow.

The Latin word for skin is pellis

or cutis or tergum or corium

or tunica or paellis or tergus

or pellicula or mastruca or

corius or tegmentum or

membrana or tegus or

folliculus or excuviae or

mastruga or paellicula or

scortum or deglubio or decorio

all with other meanings

such as armour or leather

or back or bark or peel or hide

so you begin to see that the beginning

is never that,

translation choosing the end point

but in the end

there are 22 more mentions of skin.

Next most seen in English as

'her native whiteness'

describing Io as she returns to human

form. Latin word for white here is albus,

also meaning bright and clear ,

so she could have been 'native bright'

meaning,

the glow of returning to her original form

after being chased around the world

for decades as a cow, by a mosquito.

Another word for white is candidus,
which also means bright and shining,
brown yellow beige black skin can be
bright and shining,
someone chose for it to not mean this.

Whiteness was decided
where it wasn't
so the translators of the time
could please their prejudice,
ancient texts to prove a racism invented.

The myths themselves came from
Libya, Ethiopia, Turkey, Syria
Greece

let's just always say Greece/Italy
and it will become the end we want
another word for white is increto
which also means chalk -
or whitewash.



CREATIVE

DIRECTOR Gillian Abbott
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Julian Abelskamp
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Eden Mullins
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Miranda Soledad Tejada
SOUND DESIGNER Sam Kim
LIGHTING DESIGNER Mikaela Baird
MUSIC COMPOSITION Alecsys Proctor-Turner
MUSIC ORCHESTRATION Deandre Sevon
PRODUCER Sabrina Victor

SPECIAL THANKS

James Calleri Peter Jay Fernandez Scott Whitehurst Liz Hayes Ron Van Lieu
Sita Mani Shanga Parker Ralf Jean-Pierre Jean McClelland Thomas Gimore
Julia Martin Linda Marvel

RESOURCES

SUPPORT GROUPS

Weekends of Recovery

Taking Back Ourselves
Men Healing _____

Columbia University Support Groups

Visit www.health.columbia.edu for sexual
trauma survivor groups day/time

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Serves as the nation's
principle information and
resource center regarding all
aspects of sexual violence.

The Anti-Violence Project

The New York City Anti-Violence
Project provides free and
confidential assistance to LGBTQ
and HIV-affected individuals in
New York City through direct
client services, community
organizing and public advocacy.

Darkness to Light

Empowering people
to prevent sexual
abuse.

SUICIDE & CRISIS PREVENTION RESOURCES

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, available 24 hours in
English and Spanish: dial 988
If you're under 21, you can call Teen Link at 866-
TEENLINK (866-833-6546) and ask to talk to a peer
Text "HEAL" to the Crisis Text Line at 741741 or contact
Lifeline Crisis Chat

A Note from the Directors,

This show came as an absolute surprise and delight for us. Although we've dreamed of directing a project together, we didn't expect the opportunity would arise quite so soon! We stepped into the role of directors mid-process – and out of the necessity of time, found a way of collaborating with the actors and other creative team members that ultimately speaks to what this play is all about. We've traditionally known the role of director to imply an artistic hierarchy when it comes to the vision of the play. Our rehearsal rooms (yes, multiple at once) in contrast have seen a leveling of the power-over structure, in an attempt to truly embrace each actor's voice and point of view. We began by meeting with the actors individually to envision a score for each myth that synced with what we believe to be the intention behind this adaptation – and from there, we've given them the support they needed to bring it to life.

Ovid himself was dealing with the question of “who holds power?”, while he wrote *Metamorphoses*. He was interested in retelling well-known Greek myths from the perspective of those without agency inside of them. The three writers of this new imagining of his epic have continued to be interested in similar things. When they came together to write this adaptation, they viewed Ovid's stories through the lens of the Summer of 2020 – as the world reckoned with the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, and the expanding resonance of the Me Too movement.

The last word of Ovid's epic is *vivam*—which means, “I will live.” This is believed to be Ovid telling us, “My body might die, but my words will live.” It could be said that he has created a living text, one for us to continue to develop as a collective. Even a few short years after this version of the play was written, these stories may hold a different resonance for some than they would have during their conception. As these writers kept the integrity of Ovid's original text, we invite you to notice where these stories provoke you and where they resonate with your own experience of humanity.

From campfires to theatres, may we continue to gather and tell stories in order that we may truly know ourselves.

Enjoy the show!
G & J

