

**Laura Rikard** (2nd Year MFA, Acting): *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (U.Va. Drama); *Macbeth, Lady M* (New Perspectives Theatre, NYC).

**Nina Shamloo** (3rd Year Drama, Foreign Affairs): *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Twelfth Night* (U.Va. Drama).

**Napoleon Tavale** (2nd Year MFA, Acting): *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer, The Two Gentleman of Verona* (U.Va. Drama).

**Tashi Thomas** (2nd Year MFA, Acting): *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (U.Va. Drama); *Big Love, The Threepenny Opera* (The University of Notre Dame).

**Paul Truitt** (2nd Year Drama)

### PRODUCTION STAFF FOR *LANGUAGE OF ANGELS*

Assistant Director . . . . . Will Rucker  
Assistant Stage Managers . . . . . Claire Hart, Ana Losada  
Assistant Technical Director . . . . . Justin Smith  
Department Technical Director . . . . . Steve Warner  
Scenic Shop Manager . . . . . David Hale  
Scenic Design Faculty Advisor . . . . . Tom Bloom  
Master Carpenters . . . . . Richard Block, Rachel Lau  
Carpenters . . . . . Miguel Algarin, Jason Benn,  
Tom Christensen, Chris Dickens, Students of DRAM 2210  
Paint Shop Charge . . . . . Jeffrey Kmiec  
Paint Shop Staff . . . . . Virginia Berg, Jacob Bloom,  
Mary Butcher, Mel Erenoglu, Garrett Madjic, Isabella "Izzy" Sazak  
Props Mistress . . . . . Jessica Cloutier  
Assistant Props Mistress . . . . . Kristen Freshwater  
Scene Shop Assistants . . . . . Students of DRAM 2230  
Props Shop Staff . . . . . Hitesh Ajmera, Karen Bozicevich,  
Lauren Chilton, Jyna Maeng, Angela Pirko, Olga Zeveleva  
Costume Design Faculty Advisor . . . . . Gweneth West  
Costume Shop Manager . . . . . Joshua Bond  
Assistant Costume Designer . . . . . Brendan Tufts  
Cutter, Draper . . . . . Brigid Prescott  
Costume Shop Staff . . . . . Diana Dzikiewicz, Sachi Edson, Amara Shaker-Brown  
Lighting Design Faculty Advisor . . . . . R. Lee Kennedy  
Master Electrician . . . . . Ryan Logue  
Sound Design Faculty Advisor . . . . . Michael Rasbury  
Sound Crew . . . . . Brendt Harris, Sean McCoy, James Parker, Paul Truitt  
Business Manager . . . . . James Scales  
Assistant Business Manager . . . . . Jenny Mays  
Arts Box Office Manager . . . . . Andrew Burnett  
Arts Box Office Staff . . . . . Ally Boate, Sarah Edwards, Betsy Graves,  
Russ Hicks, Hunter Link, Danny Navarro, Leigh Spoden, Ashleigh White  
House Manager . . . . . Portia Henry  
Concessions Manager . . . . . Vashti Harrison  
Front of House Staff . . . . . Jarred Boone, Bergen Nelson, Maurice Patterson  
Publicity Assistant . . . . . Richard Block  
Production Manager . . . . . Caitlin McLeod

 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

# DRAMA

# Language of Angels

*by Naomi Iizuka*

*Directed by  
Doreen Bechtol*



*Helms Theatre*

*October 22-24, 27-31, 2009*

Presents

# Language of Angels

by Naomi Iizuka

Directed by **Doreen Bechtol**  
Vocal Direction by **Kate Burke**  
Scenic Design by **Benoit Beauchamp**  
Costume Design by **Christina Leinicke**  
Lighting Design by **Justin Freshwater**  
Sound Design by **Max Krembs**  
Technical Direction by **Alan Perez**  
Production Stage Management by **Justin Paxton**

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Seth ..... Richie MacLeod  
Celie ..... Julia Addis-Lieser  
Kendra, Voice #2 ..... Tashi Thomas  
JB ..... Napoleon Tavale  
Michael ..... Paul Truitt  
Allison ..... Nina Shamloo  
Danielle ..... Laura Rikard  
Billy ..... Sam Rabinovitz

*There will be one 15 minute intermission.*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Naomi Iizuka is a puzzle. Born in Tokyo to a Latina American mother and a Japanese father, she lived in Japan, Indonesia, Holland and the United States. These vastly different pieces of history and culture collide within *The Language of Angels*, resulting in a play with as many facets as Iizuka herself. She pairs the familiar with the unknown – ancient and modern, East and West, love and loss – and the resulting tensions pervade the play and engage its audience.

This play is not easy. Throughout several weeks of rehearsal we could practically hear the light bulbs pop on – “Oh, now I get it, I think...” Iizuka herself states, “My work is not safe writing. Sometimes it’s difficult, disturbing, scary.” We agree and are thrilled by the challenge. Iizuka sets the structure of Japanese Noh drama, with its ghostly presences and shifting time, against the rural landscape of North Carolina, drawing tension between the mode of storytelling and those telling the story. What surfaces is a beautifully poetic Appalachian voice – a familiar voice of hardship, despair, and grief elegantly spun into a centuries-old dramatic structure.

Each of the play’s three parts, separated by interludes – or “betweens”, as Iizuka calls them – relates to the tragic disappearance of a young girl named Celie. In the first part we learn of the circumstances surrounding her mysterious vanishing from those who were with her on the fateful night. Part two introduces more of Celie’s closest friends years after the event, while part three focuses on “the last two standing.” This single event rips through the lives of Celie’s friends, and like a stone cast in a stream, the ripples continue to affect them throughout time.

We invite you into the world of Naomi Iizuka. As a witness to this play you are indeed the final piece to the puzzle.

*Doreen Bechtol, Director*

## WHO'S WHO IN *LANGUAGE OF ANGELS*

**Julia Addis-Lieser** (2nd Year Drama, History): *Footloose* (FYP)

**Benoit Beauchamp** (Lecturer, Dance Production Manager)

**Doreen Bechtol** (Guest Director)

**Kate Burke** (Associate Professor, Voice and Speech)

**Justin Freshwater** (4th Year Drama): *Some Girl(s)*, Spring Dance Concert 2008 (U.Va. Drama); *Don Giovanni* (Opera Viva); *I Love You Because* (Spectrum).

**Max Krembs** (2nd Year Drama): *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (U.Va. Drama); *Sweeney Todd* (FYP).

**Christina Leinicke** (2nd year MFA, Costume Design): *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Oklahoma!* (U.Va. Drama); *On Golden Pond, Moonlight & Magnolias* (HTF).

**Richie MacLeod** (2nd Year Drama): *Sweeney Todd, Footloose* (FYP).

**Justin Paxton** (4th Year Drama, Dance): Spring Dance Concert 2009 (U.Va. Drama).

**Alan Perez** (2nd Year MFA, Technical Direction): *Fuddy Meers, The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer, Day of Absence* (U.Va. Drama).

**Sam Rabinovitz** (4th Year Drama, Economics): *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Oklahoma!, The Voyage Inheritance, Ubu Roi, The African Company Presents...* (U.Va. Drama).