

Dylan looks to continue pursuing a career in music.

Alan C. Smith – DIRECTOR

Alan C. Smith is a Bermudian writer, performer, theatre director and visual artist. He has performed in Bermuda, North America, the West Indies and the UK. His first forays into theatre were poetry-based pieces that he devised incorporating music, song, movement and sets, usually created from recycled materials. Although he still creates performances around his poetry, he occasionally challenges himself with more traditional performance, most recently as Curtis in the Gilbert & Sullivan production of the musical *Dreamgirls* and lead actor in historical recreations featured in Lucinda Spurling’s documentary, *The Lion and the Mouse*. In recent years he directed *Trial by Fire* and *Emancipation: A Love Story*, both unconventional historical dramas written by Dr. Kim Dismont Robinson.

Dr. Kim Dismont Robinson – PLAYWRIGHT

Kim is a poet, playwright and scholar. She earned her doctorate in 2003 from the English Department of the University of Miami specialising in Caribbean Literature. Her previous staged plays include *Hey Sister* and *Trial by Fire: Sally Bassett’s Streams of Consciousness*. She is the Folklife Officer for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Alan C. Smith
Assistant..... Tona Symonds
Producer..... BSSF Committee
BSSF Drama Facilitator Jo Shane
Technical Director John Waddell
Choreographer..... Marcus Smith

BSSF Committee Members

Conchita Ming, OBE Chairman
Jo Shane Drama Facilitator
Jean Campbell..... Member at Large
Julie Allen..... Sponsor Liaison
Annarita Marion, CA Treasurer
Ruth Thomas, MBE Special Coordinator
Robyn Skinner PR Coordinator
Stephanie Lee..... Social Media Coordinator



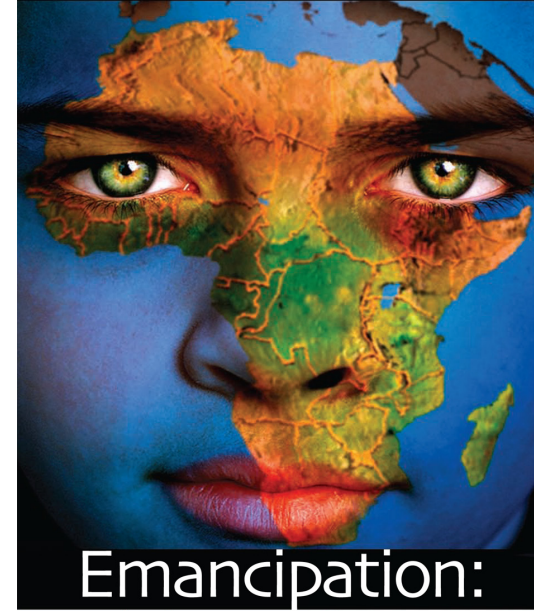
GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Education



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Community, Culture and Sports
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs



The Ministry of Education
in collaboration with Bermuda Shakespeare Schools Festival
presents the preview of an abridged version of
Emancipation: A Love Story by Dr. Kim Dismont Robinson
Alan C. Smith, Director



**Emancipation:
A Love Story**

The Berkeley Institute • Sunday, 1 December 2013 • 3:00 p.m.

This play will be presented by a national cast of
Bermuda’s secondary school students
at the Caribbean Secondary Schools Drama Festival (CSSDF)
Barbados
8–15 December

**Caribbean Secondary
Schools’
Drama Festival**
BARBADOS, DECEMBER, 8-15, 2013



Background

The Ministry of Education received an invitation to participate in the Caribbean Secondary School Drama Festival (CSSDF) and approached The Bermuda Shakespeare Schools Festival (BSSF) to coordinate a Bermuda cast for the CSSDF Festival. The Ministry knew the work of BSSF and were aware of the committee's desire to establish a relationship with drama programmes in Caribbean schools.

The BSSF Committee selected Alan C. Smith as the Director. He proposed to mount an abridged version of the play by Dr. Kim Dismont Robinson, *Emancipation: A Love Story*, a docudrama about Bermuda's History. Through auditions a national cast was formed representing students (who have participated in the BSSF Festivals) from six of the local high schools (public and private). This has been a remarkable collaborative effort through the Ministry of Education, BSSF, Director, playwright, the 'all-school' audition and The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

This production has produced a new version and interpretation of an original Bermuda play performed by a Bermuda National Schools cast. We are proud to be presenting this play at the CSSDF Festival. Further, these young actors will be ambassadors for Bermuda participating in a Youth Forum and giving a presentation about Bermuda's culture in one of the schools in Barbados.

The Ministry wishes to thank The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for its support of this project.

Emancipation: A Love Story

By Dr. Kim Dismont Robinson

CAST

Man Marquedelle Rodrigues
Woman and chorus.....Treasure Tannock
India Wilson, Ashanti Stovell, Tess Spencer
Owner Jade Weaver
Gumba Marcus Smith
Musician Dylan Hollis

The play is a powerful work of historical fiction, offering a glimpse into the physical and psychological experiences of the Africans who eventually became African-Bermudians during the course of a transatlantic experience that begins in Angola more than 500 years ago.

Scene One: An Angolan Village, mid-1400s

Research indicates that the first group of Africans who were brought to Bermuda were likely Angolan.

Scene Two: A Slave Ship, Mid-Atlantic, late 1600s

The horrors of life aboard a slave ship and the nightmare of the Middle Passage.

Scene Three: Bermuda Estate, early 1700s

Some slaves rather than see their offspring a slave, killed them. One such case was heard before the assize for 18–27 June 1667—that of the slave, Black Beck, who attempted to kill her newborn child.

Scene Four: Bermuda Estate, late 1700s

The story of Joseph Clipson, a free young mulatto man from St. Kitts, as told by Olaudah Equiano.

Scene Five: St. George's, 1834

Reactions of the people to Emancipation in Bermuda

Scene Six: A Home in Warwick, late 1950s

The Progressive Group met in secret and planned the 1959 Theatre Boycott. The boycott lasted two weeks before theatre owners capitulated, resulting in Bermuda's desegregation.

Scene Seven: Bermuda 2009

Violence in Bermuda took a dramatic and decisive turn for the worse in May 2009 with gang tensions sparking a shocking rash of fatal shootings of young black men.

Cast Biographies

India Wilson

My name is India Wilson and I attend Warwick Academy. I am 14 years old and have been cast in 17 productions since the age of eight including *Oliver Twist*, *The Railway Children* and *Animal Farm*. Theatre is my passion and I hope to always have it in my life.

Marquedelle Rodrigues

I aspire to be many things, but the journey for any dream is difficult. I attend the prestigious Berkeley Institute and my name is Marquedelle Philip Rodriguez and I'll "Never give up", following my favourite quote I definitely won't. As a child through to my current age 17, I've always wanted to inspire others through the arts. To evoke emotion through something you can't touch amazed me, and to make something from nothing really amazed me. I dream to be a film director, animator, music producer, and never wake up from it.

Marcus Smith

Marcus "Zebrakid" Smith is 17 years old and was born on 31 January 1996. He is currently Deputy Head Boy of Saltus Grammar School in his second year of the SGY Programme.

Marcus loves acting, dancing, doing gymnastics and singing. His four years of dancing experience has allowed him to choreograph for United Dance Productions, Ms Keya's Fun Approach and his own dance group "Hay Smitty!" Having been a supporting role in productions like *The Producers*, *The Railway Children* and *South Pacific* and a leading role in plays like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Tulssa Academy*, he hopes to jump start his career with this international debut. His ultimate dream is to be a performer on Broadway and he is currently trying to equip himself with all the tools he may need to get there.

Treasure Tannock

Treasure is 15 years old and attends Warwick Academy School. She loves the arts and is a quadruple threat who is an enthusiastic actress, lyricist, dancer and musician – playing both the cello and the piano.

Treasure was educated in both England and Bermuda, and now attends Warwick Academy in Bermuda where she is in her 11th year and has responsibility

as a School Prefect. Treasure has been in numerous school performances such as *The Crucible*, *Hairspray*, and *Cabaret*, in addition to being a member of the Warwick Academy Senior Orchestra. Treasure has also participated in the Bermuda Shakespeare Schools Festival, performing in *The Taming of the Shrew* and *A Comedy of Errors*, and assisting as a stage hand in *The Merchant of Venice*. Treasure is actively involved in her church youth group, the local music scene and she enjoys collecting vintage vinyl LP's. Treasure's career goal is to pursue a degree in musical theatre and a career on the stage.

Ashanti Stovell

Ashanti is 16 years of age and attends CedarBridge Academy School. She has participated in many school productions and also appeared in *Romeo and Juliet* (2012) and *Julius Caesar* (2013) for the Bermuda Shakespeare Schools Festival in 2011. She is very excited to have been selected to represent her country at the CSSDF.

Tess Spencer

Tess is 16 years old and attends Saltus Grammar School in Bermuda. She has appeared in several school productions and in two Shakespeare plays for The Bermuda Shakespeare Schools Festival (*Twelfth Night* in 2011 and *The Tempest* in 2012) when she was a student at Somersfield Academy. She was also fortunate to have been chosen to attend an acting course at the prestigious Stage Door Manor Drama School in NYC in 2011.

Jade Weaver

My name is Jade Weaver, I am 15 years old and I attend The Bermuda High School for Girls. I enjoy acting with new people and having new experiences.

Dylan Hollis – MUSICIAN

Dylan Hollis has been playing piano for 11 years. He started learning piano by ear, and after three years of self-teaching he began taking lessons. While he started out playing classical music, Dylan is becoming proficient in the style of "Stride Piano" – an early form of jazz piano, very similar to that of Ragtime. Dylan is also an amateur jazz composer, as well as a collector of vintage music recordings. Dylan's experience in musical dramatics, has led him to roles such as assistant musical director and musical director of school plays such as *Hairspray* and *Cabaret*, as well as live backing music for plays such as *History Boys*.