

August Wilson's **SEVEN GUITARS**

Meet the Cast



Safara Rowland

Safara is an African-American and Japanese actor born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is a BFA Acting major and Peace and Justice Studies minor. At Pace, she was previously in *RENT* (ensemble; US Maureen and Joanne), and *Pumpernickel* new work written by Off-Broadway playwright Keelay Gibson. She describes herself as a head honcho with a degree in business and charisma. Safara has the ability to tell nuanced stories about empowering women of color and through her passion in peace and justice she wants to create a world where minorities are represented authentically both beautifully and flawed.



Seine Young

Seine Young is thrilled to be in her second PACE production at Pace University, after previously playing Christine in *Picnic* last spring. She feels honored to be making history with this cast and is especially grateful to see Black artists shine on stage. Seine is excited to bring Louise to life and share this story with you.



Amaya Farrell

I've wanted to act since I was 3 years old, and working on *Seven Guitars* reminded me why. I'm so grateful to be in this production, telling such an important story with an INCREDIBLE cast and crew! Thank you to everyone on this project. It's been so fulfilling to hone my craft with you all.



Abdou Seye

Hailing from the greatest city in the world, Minneapolis, Abdou Seye is in his senior year at Pace University. Previously, he has been Dance Teacher Pat in Dance Nation and Georg in Spring Awakening. He also appeared as Jordan in a new work at Penumbra called Spittin' Seeds. He is ecstatic and grateful to play Floyd in this production and work with Phillip and his wonderful castmates.



Kris Jai Pruitt

This is Kris Jai P.! They were born and raised in the beautiful state of Alabama where they began acting at the age of six. Recently they were in their first Off-Off-Broadway production, a new work called "The Divine Dating Game" where they originated the role of God. Currently, they are preparing to graduate this spring and dive into everything the world has to offer. They feel deeply honored to be a part of the first all Black main stage production here at Pace University! In the words of Beyonce "Ain't that bout'a bitch" <3



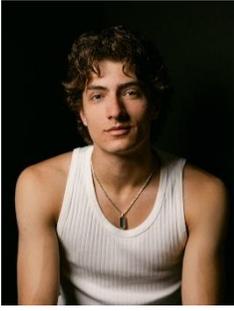
Jason Alexander Dixon

Jason is a young actor from the Bronx. This will be his first show with Pace and as such he hopes you can sit back and enjoy the show. But "you cant tell nothing about something like that, till after you try it".



Christian Clayborne

Christian Clayborne (Hedley) is delighted to be making his New York debut at Pace University and ecstatic to return to the work of August Wilson nearly seventeen years after giving his very first theatrical performance in "Joe Turner's Come and Gone". His most recent credits include Caliban in Shakespeare's "The Tempest" with the British American Dramatic Academy, and Mr. Bumble in "Oliver" at Hawaii's Diamond Head Theater. A former Navy service member, he intends to stay serving while on stage for you and hopes you enjoy the show!.



Dimitri Botsacos

Dimitri Botsacos is a sophomore BFA actor at Pace University. Originally from Manhattan he grew up watching theatre and film. He is an eager collaborative person who is always excited for the opportunity to bring text to life.



Amaris Blyden

Amaris is a sophomore and this will be her first mainstage production. She is excited to be a part of such a wonderful cast and powerful show. She thanks the cast and crew for all the hard work they put into the production.



Coral Brito

Coral Brito is a sophomore BFA Acting major here at Pace and ecstatic to be understudying the role of 'Louise' in Seven Guitars. This will be her 1st mainstage production at Pace. Coral would like to thank her family, friends, and the entire cast and crew of Seven Guitars for this incredible experience. Enjoy the show!



Johnny Depal

My name is Johnny and I am a junior at Pace University. This is my 2nd production at Pace and it's been a wonderful experience. My goals include graduation of course along with doing work revolving around film, stage, and voice acting as well!



Najee Durrett

Najee-Ullah Al Amin Durrett is an artist & actor from Bridgeport, Connecticut who is very excited to be in his 3rd Pace production. Working with this beautiful cast and crew has been such a pleasure for him, and it's a true HONOR to be a part of Pace BFA's first all Black show. Enjoy!

Meet the Creative team

Phillip Christian Smith (She/Her) – Director

Phillip Christian Smith is a resident member of New Dramatists 2023-2030, this year's winner of the Kleban Prize for most promising librettist, holder of a Sloan Commission, Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow, a Roe Green Commission with Cleveland Playhouse, a Fire This Time Festival Playwright, Fresh Ground Pepper PGPG, a Tennessee Williams Scholar at Sewanee (current staff), Playwrights Realm and Lambda Literary Fellow, Winter Playwrights Retreat, The Outrage: A Queer Writers Residency. Florida Rep PlayLab, Valdez Conference. O'Neill, PlayPenn, Trustus, and BAPF Finalist. Phillip is a founding member and 1/5th of The Omnivores. He teaches playwriting at Medgar Evers College, acting at Pace University and Hunter College where he has also taught playwriting. MFA Yale School of Drama acting, MFA Hunter College playwriting, BFA UNM. [Visit Phillip's website.](#)

Scenic Designer – Cassandra Booker

Cassandra Booker (Scenic Designer) is a sophomore in BFA Production Design for Screen and Stage with a concentration in Scenic and Costume Design. This is Cassandra's Scenic Design debut at Sand's College of Performing Arts. She has previously worked on other Sands productions, such as "Hair" (Assistant Scenic), "Dance Nation" (Wardrobe Supervisor), and "IPE New" (Light Programmer). Outside of Pace Productions, Cassandra also enjoys working on films such as "100 Meters" (Production Designer and Head Costume Designer), "Spit Out Your Bones" (Head Costume Designer), and "She's Got It" (Art Assistant). Cassandra would like to give a special shoutout to thank her parents for always supporting her journey through the arts.

Neven Bilaver – Costume Designer

Neven is a junior costume design focus at Pace with a passion for anything artistic. In his free time, he enjoys drawing and aspires to learn tattooing one day.

Shawn Young – Lighting Designer

Shawn is excited to work on Seven Guitars and hopes you all enjoy. Previous work at Pace includes The Seagull, Dance sSpace, and Oklahoma. Some of his professional work includes Shrek, Boeing Boeing, Young Frankenstein (Forestburgh Playhouse), as well as Romeo + Juliet and Woyzeck Off-Off-Broadway. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

David Lawson – Sound Designer

David Margolin Lawson is a New York-based sound designer, composer, and recording engineer. He has worked with, recorded, and designed for many New York area performing arts organizations, including: Urban Stages, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), La Mama, E. T. C., The Juilliard School, The Public Theater, The Signature Theater, UP Theater Company, HERE Arts Center, The New School, NYU, Repertorio Español, and others. David has been a faculty member at Pace University since 2011. [Visit David's website.](#)

Anushka Srivastava – Production Stage Manager

Hello! Hope this bio finds you well. Anushka is a third-year SM at Pace and is thrilled to be working on this beautiful show! Her favorite previous Pace works include Big Fish, Rent, and Zeus 4. They've had an incredible few months collaborating with everyone, and they wouldn't have it any other way! Thank you to the entire design team, directing team, and cast for their brilliant minds and endless enthusiasm. More than anything, Anushka couldn't be more grateful for this SM team. Charlotte, Maya, Clara, and Ryder have been the most wonderful teammates and friends that she could have ever asked for. All that being said, enjoy the show! There isn't a moment in this script that isn't meaningful.

Jessica Zhou – Assistant Director

Zihan "Jessica" Zhou is a junior directing major here at Pace. Jessica is deeply passionate about creating art that explores humanity and communities. Building connections with every individual through sharing, learning, and empathizing. She is honored and grateful to be working with these creative and talented artists on this production and is excited to share this story with the audience. Jessica believes that we need some light, and there will be light.

Alea Cerha Vist – Assistant Scenic Designer

Alea is a freshman in the BFA Production and Design for Stage and Screen program. Prior to being the Assistant Scenic Designer on Seven Guitars, she has worked as props build and run on one of the films in the fall 2025 semester.

Mel Zago – Wardrobe Supervisor

This is the 6th production where Mel has been a part of the wardrobe team at Pace. Some of their past credits include Pippin, Big Fish, and many semesters of dance. They wish the best to all the cast and crew (especially the lovely, lovely PSM). Enjoy the show!

Jaccoa Stills – Assistant Lighting Designer

Jaccoa Stills is currently working towards a BFA in Production Design for the Stage & Screen at Pace University with a focus on Lighting Design. Most recent ventures include lighting design for In Our Utopia (The Tank), The Beast, The Mother, and the Kid (IRT Theater/ALAB Festival), Suspiria (Playwrights Horizons Theater School), and Dirt (Arts on Site). Other current theater-based work includes Production Stage Manager for True West at Freddy's, and Technical Coordinator for NYC Fringe Festival. They are so grateful to be a part of this team!

Hailey Gwata – A1

This is Hailey's 2nd production at Pace, and she is so excited to A1! She previously worked as an A2 on Hair and is excited to see what the rest of her endeavors here at Pace include!

Maya McQueen – Rehearsal Stage Manager

Maya McQueen is a sophomore/junior/senior stage manager here at Pace University. She feels so fortunate to have worked with such a wonderful team and is so proud of all the hard work everyone has put into this show.

Clara Nam – PA

Clara Nam is a freshman from New York studying stage management and has worked on various shows in high school such as The Addam's Family (A2), Little Shop of Horrors (A1), Into the Woods (A1), and Chicago: Teen Edition (A1). At Pace: Emergence (Light Board Op), Dance sSpace (Dresser), and now Seven Guitars (2nd Assistant Stage Manager).