

## Another much deserved shot for "Trust" --

Written by Administrator

Monday, 22 June 2015 10:46 - Last Updated Monday, 22 June 2015 10:47

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**WHEN: TRUST: A theatrical read-performance addressing police and community relations, directed by Prof. Cynthia Henderson, Ithaca College, co-founder of Performing Arts for Social Change (PASC) ...**

**WHERE: Greater Ithaca Activities Center**

**WHEN: Sunday, June 28, 4 p.m.**

**ADMISSION: FREE -- but \$5 or more donation is suggested. All proceeds benefit the performers and community.**

**BACKGROUND:** Trust is the result of a PASC commissioned project "Establishing Trust," with a cast and volunteers who met discussed the relationship between the police force and civilians as preparation for their production. A performance in May was so well received that it was decided to organize a "revival" with new and previous cast members. A "review" of sorts, by Franklin Crawford of the Tompkins Weekly, follows this backgrounder.

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"Trust" explores the negative and positive opinions of the police/community relationship, and helps to explain why "trust" in general, is so difficult to achieve on both side of the "blue blue." Director Henderson explains, "This project involves civilians from various demographics within this community as well as police officers who are interested in finding a better way for us all to work together for the benefit of everyone in the Ithaca community.

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In addition to the direction of Henderson, the script was assembled by Ithaca College Department of Theatre Arts Assistant Professor and renowned playwright Saviana Stanescu.

Stanescu says: "Cynthia's project captivated me through its beautiful ambition: to establish trust between the police and civilians. Can we really do that? I don't know the answer, but I know it's an important question." Scenes are filled with music by Peter Rothbart, IC music professor, and stage action as direction by Amy O'Brien, IC professor of theatre and dance professor.

Henderson sayss the project became a "microcosm of both the challenges and the possibilities that this community deals with on a larger scale everyday. What we hope is that this experimental project delivers both insight and puts our community on a solution-oriented path for a challenges exist in Ithaca as well as the nation. "

Trust cast members include: Ithaca College Police Officer Mayra Colon, Micah Martorell Sr., Michah Martorell Jr., Lee-Ellen Marvin, Ella Mead VanCort, Peter Morris, Cora Moss, Ithaca Police Department Officer J.B. Nelson, O.J. Nash Prescott, Trece Stevenson and Cassie Walker.

The following is an opinion piece by Crawford in his bi-monthly column, after seeing the original performance. Many of his questions have since been addressed and it is the wish of tinytowntimes.com that "Trust" become a regular, evolving production, as Mr. Crawford suggests. NOTE: Harmony Graves Malone, who graduated short after the production, will not be in the upcoming performance.

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