



PITTSBURGH IRISH & CLASSICAL THEATRE  
Professional Theater in Residence at the University of Pittsburgh

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## **PICT invites public to “*Othello* for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Audience”**

*Panel discussion probes contemporary relevance of Shakespeare’s masterpiece*

**Pittsburgh, PA – May 25, 2010.** Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre will host a panel discussion entitled “*Othello* for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Audience” on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the Henry Heymann Theatre. The event is being held in conjunction with PICT’s production of *Othello*, and is preceded by a 2 p.m. performance of the play. Moderator Gale McGloin will lead a lively discussion with members of the *Othello* company, including actor Javon Johnson, director Andrew S. Paul, and dramaturg Kristen L. Olson, Ph.D. There is no cost to attend the discussion, and no reservations are required.

*Othello* centers on a heroic black warrior living in a society ruled by whites and brought to his knees by the malevolent machinations of his most trusted fellow soldier. Veteran soldier Iago is embittered when he is passed over for promotion and feels betrayed by a system that elevates a black man to a position of authority. In retaliation, he cunningly leads Othello to believe that his beautiful wife Desdemona, a white woman from a wealthy family, is having an affair with Cassio, a handsome white soldier. With the help of his wife Emilia, Iago plants evidence that stokes passionate Othello’s jealousy, leading to a disastrous tragic conclusion.

*Othello* runs until June 12th in the Henry Heymann Theatre, located at 4301 Forbes Avenue in the Stephen Foster Memorial on the University of Pittsburgh campus in Oakland. Tickets are \$20 to \$50, and are available by calling ProArtsTickets at 412.394.3353. For more information, visit the PICT website at [www.picttheatre.org](http://www.picttheatre.org).

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