

Meeting the Cast

Voza Rivers: My experience of meeting the cast was short, but very emotional. The . . . I learnt more by seeing them in the production and their level of professionalism than with the short time that Gregory and I had in terms of actually discussing. But one thing I do know—and they were extremely excited and sincere about it—Harlem to them is a very special community. They can not wait to be h . . . to arrive here, they can not wait to engage in dialogue with the students, the community, and to be able to share their experiences. We have a young man from Rwanda who will be here and his family have been victims of that war, a devastating war that's still going on today between the two major tribes. And he talks about that, and he wants to be able to share those experiences, and I know that Peter has provided an opportunity as they go from city to city to give him a chance to tell that story. But we want to come here, share that with our students and and this community. There is this actress from Vietnam who also has stories. And so we'll be able to do that. We have another actor from Japan, we have actors from the Congo, from Nigeria, from Burkina Faso—all very interesting actors with wonderful stories. One of the younger actors is from Algeria. And so again he hasn't been with Peter that long, but then the Japanese artist has been with Peter almost forty years. So you have this wonderful interracial, you know, multiethnic company with their different experience, but with a common thread. First of all, they're all speaking French, no matter what their languages are, and they're working with Peter, who is just known as, you know, he's a cultural practitioner at the highest level of bringing out the best in terms of the work that he produces. And that's why we're all very excited to be a part of the Peter Brook experience here in Harlem.