



## ‘Galatea’ at CounterPulse

By Lily Janiak, February 12, 2019



*Paul Rodrigues as Pygmalion (second from left) in rehearsal with other cast members of "Galatea," which performs at CounterPulse. Photo: Lauren Rosenfield*

If you're a student of Ovid, George Bernard Shaw or Lerner and Loewe, you're likely familiar with the myth of Pygmalion, in which an artist falls in love with the statue he sculpts of a female form. That statue, in the original myth, is called Galatea, and now she gives her name to a musical adaptation of the story at CounterPulse.

With book and lyrics by Katie Tandy (who first created the story as a graphic novel) and raw, mournful, fiendish rock music by Geoff Cotter, "Galatea" adds a

new dimension to the myth: Now the statue (Eliza Boivin) depicts a black woman, while Pygmalion (Paul Rodrigues), the sculptor, remains white.

The statue celebrates “one of the most maligned and elusive figures in human history, a supposed anomaly: the happy black woman,” says Pygmalion.

Thankfully, the show doesn’t take Pygmalion’s word for it. “And you’re just the reclusive, angry, obsessive white man to do the job!” says Pygmalion’s friend, Cyrus (Chris Steele).

Lauren Rosenfield directs.