

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

STOMPIN' AT THE SAVOY

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY EDGAR GODINEAUX

BOOK BY

PHAEDRA MICHELLE SCOTT AND ALAN GOVENAR

BASED ON THE BOOK **STOMPIN AT THE SAVOY: THE STORY OF NORMA MILLER**

COLLECTED AND EDITED BY ALAN GOVENAR

PUBLISHED BY CANDLEWICK PRESS



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SUMMER ON STAGE!

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A full-day exploration of theatre arts The program is led by professional theatre artists and arts educators. In the morning, students will take age-appropriate classes in acting, improvisation, voice/diction, movement for the stage, story/script building, and design/stagecraft.

SESSION I

June 30-July 18 (No camp on July 4)

TIMES:

9am-4pm, 8:45am drop off

SHAREFORMANCE:

July 17 at 7:30 PM

TUITION:

\$1,025 (\$342/week)

LOCATION:

Delaware Theatre Company 200 Water St Wilmington, DE 19801

SESSION 2

July 21-August 8

TIMES:

9am-4pm, 8:45am drop off

SHAREFORMANCE:

August 7 at 7:30 PM

TUITION:

\$1,100 (\$367/week)

LOCATION:

St. Edmond's Academy 2120 Veale Rd Wilmington, DE 19810

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2024-2025 SEASON MIMI WARNICK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TIM MCLAUGHLIN, INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR

PRODUCED BY **Documentary Arts**



BOOK BY PHAEDRA MICHELLE SCOTT AND ALAN GOVENAR

COLLECTED AND EDITED BY ALAN GOVENAR, PUBLISHED BY CANDLEWICK PRESS

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ORCHESTRATOR BILL ELLIOTT		LARRANGEMENTS VE MARK	MUSIC DIRECTOR BRIAN WHITTED	ADDITIONAL ORCH MING ALDRI		MUSIC ASSISTANT RUIRAN XUN

CASTING BY THE TRC COMPANY, TARA RUBIN, CSA, CASTING ASSOCIATE FRANKIE RAMIREZ, CSA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
MATT SILVA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Lark hackshaw³

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ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER
EVA LA DARE

MUSIC SUPERVISOR, ARRANGER, AND ADDITIONAL ORCHESTRATIONS

GREG ANTHONY RASSEN

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY

EDGAR GODINEAUX¹

The show runs 2 hours with one 15 minute intermission

1 Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.
 2 Member of United Scenic Artists.
 3 Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.



THE MAKING OF

STOMPIN' THE SAVOY

BY ALAN GOVENAR

To talk with Norma Miller was to swing into the past.

Jazz dance was her life, and Stompin' at the Savoy is a tribute to her, based on a series of conversations I started with her in in the fall of 2000, while I was working on the musical Blind Lemon Blues with Akin Babatunde. Norma agreed to come to Dallas to teach dance steps of the 1920s to the cast.

Norma liked to reminisce, and as I listened, I was drawn into her stories. Her memories were at once detailed and honed. She liked to joke about herself but never seemed to exaggerate. A few months later, I met up with Norma in New York. She was wearing a hot pink sweat suit, sequined cap, and a red leather jacket. She was standing majestically in front of the Carlyle Hotel at 76th Street and Madison Avenue. She was relaxed, but acutely aware. She had an uncanny ability to evoke a sense of people, places, and events, as if she was taking me into her past as her quest.

The next time I saw Norma in New York, we went to Luci's on 124th Street and 8th Avenue, where the 15-piece Harlem Renaissance Big Band played on Monday nights. While we looked on, two Japanese girls, wearing circle skirts, Bobbie socks, and black and white soft-soled shoes took the dance

floor with African American men, who were probably old enough to be their grandparents, well-seasoned veterans of the swing dance era. Norma leaned back, confident that the Lindy Hop was indeed passing from one generation to the next.

For Norma, so much of the beauty of life was what happened next. Our dialogue was always honest and free flowing. We were equal partners in the creation of the book *Stompin'* at the *Savoy: The Story of Norma Miller*, and together we conceived of a musical about her teenaged years.

The first workshop of Stompin' at the Savoy was held in 2020, about nine months after Norma passed away at age 99 on May 5, 2019. By then, I had written multiple script drafts, striving to articulate her vision. In 2022, the York Theatre Company helped to organize a Zoom reading, followed by a two-week workshop. A year later, Documentary Arts produced a 29-hour reading, and in the fall of 2023, I began collaborating with Phaedra Michelle Scott, whose creativity and insights have been essential in shaping the dramatization.

Not a conventional musical, *Stompin'* at the Savoy evokes the effervescence of Harlem at a time when racism was rampant. Stompin' at the Savoy meshes what Norma called "the beat of the street" with the sounds of the Lindy Hop, with new arrangements of big band classics, from King Oliver,

Chick Webb, Benny Goodman, and Ella Fitzgerald to period songs by lesser-known Black composers Shelton Brooks, Bulee "Slim" Gaillard, John Leubrie Hill, Richard M. Jones, Sy Oliver, Edgar Sampson, Leroy "Slam" Stewart, and Bert Williams.

Throughout, Stompin' at the Savoy is infused with the incessant energy of children's rhymes and hand clapping games, many of which were collected

by Ralph Ellison in the 1930s, just a few blocks away from the tenement where Norma grew up, an easy walk from the Savoy Ballroom, the ubiquitous Home of Happy Feet, the first dance hall in America, where Blacks, Whites, Jews, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, West Indians, and anyone else who wanted to swing out were welcome.

Stompin' at the Savoy is a story of dreams and the journey to fulfillment.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

PHAEDRA MICHELLE SCOTT

I stand on the shoulders of those who came before me, people like Norma Miller and the Lindy Hoppers, who broke new ground, and forged a path that no one charted before. I did not have the privilege of meeting Norma Miller before she passed, but I am honored to be a part of the incredible team that brought her story to life to celebrate the spirit of Harlem, and the absolute exhilaration of swing dance.

This story is for the dancers. Starting from the rhythm of the world, evolving into the joy of music, and embracing the camaraderie, athleticism and teamwork of dance. Every word, every move, every piece of this puzzle is intentional, dedicated to telling a story about a young woman as she comes of age during the 1930s. History has always been a passion of mine, and the marriage between history and theater allows for the past to be preserved almost subliminally. The music is authentic to the time period, the choreography and costumes and design are all choices meant to honor the past. All in support of sharing the story of The Savoy Ballroom, a piece of history that no longer exists on 140th street in Harlem.

Throughout this process, I was inspired by the talent and skill of the actors on stage, how their passion should reflect in the story. To create a show that no one has seen before is an amazing opportunity, one that allows for discovery, and play and theater magic.

As an artist, my roots started at Delaware Theater Company, participating in the Young Playwrights Program, I was a semi-finalist for my first playwriting award when I was in middle school. It is surreal to be back in my hometown of Wilmington, Delaware and to share this musical about passion, ambition, and optimism. Thank you for coming along on the ride.

All of this is possible thanks to my family-my husband Evan, mother, my nieces and nephews, my cousins, aunties, uncles, and countless friends. To all those that came before me, and all those that will come after me. Optimism is not the same thing as naivety-optimism changes the world. When in doubt-swing out!

MIMI WARNICK

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TIM MCLAUGHLIN

INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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SPECIAL THANKS

Kaleta Doolin Jason Johnson-Spinos Akin Babatundé Mickey Davidson

Workshop developed with The York Theatre Company

Production Legal Counsel for Documentary Arts, Inc. Michael J. Sinder, Esq. Smart Sets By Sam for their contribution to the Props Design.

Scenery First for their construction of the scenic design

Paulette Brockington Harlem Stage

DR Theatrical Management

	Ayla Ciccone-Burton*
	Maya Jerome Thomas*
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	Jarvis B. Manning Jr.*
	Mikaela Secada*
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	* Dean Cestari*
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	Gerald Chavis
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	Brandon Brooks
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John Rowland	TK Memis, Josh Nagle,
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	Julia Franco, Myles Martin, Bless Rudisill Audio Technicians Shannon Bailey, Max Baines,
	Emery Cohen, Ophelia Evans,
	Nat Merill, Zoe Monroe, Jeffery Salerno
	Scenic Painters Juliette Hunter, Anthony Sorantino
Ming Aldrich-Gan	
lark hackeaux	SHOW STAFF Assistant Wardrobe Head Emmie Parker
Liz Forrester*	Dressers Ryn Smith, Emily Craig
Emily McGregor	Dresser Cover Mae Merkle
Kevin Naddeo	Stitchers Deanna Marino, Jillian Warner, Lily McClure
Ethan Paone	Wig Tech Emma Ford, Lestia Wiggins
	Show Carpenter Jess McPhillips
Marcus Myler	Run Crew Jessica Merkins, Chloe Kincade, Olivia Segeda
	Run Crew Cover Miranda Schad
Jacob Wontgomery	Spotlight Operators Khai Feldman and Janay Middleton
	James B. Saracina John Rowland David P. Kelley Owen Sahnow Scott Cocchiaro Mark Valenzuela Russell Chissoe K Gumbrecht Juliette Hunter Ming Aldrich-Gan lark hacksaw* Liz Forrester* Emily McGregor Kevin Naddeo Ethan Paone Scott Cocchiaro

 $^{{\}bf *Member\ of\ Actors'\ Equity\ Association,\ the\ union\ of\ professional\ actors\ and\ stage\ managers\ in\ the\ U.S.A.}$



DTC is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. Please inquire at the Box Office.



Please turn off cellular phones and other electronic devices prior to the start of the performance.

Cameras (including camera phones) and other recording devices are strictly prohibited. However, photos may be taken and are encouraged before the show, during intermission, and after the show when no actor is present.



In accordance with LORT/USA guidelines, the following designer credit(s) and information must be included when sharing a photo:

Scenic Designer:
James Noone

Lighting Designer: **Alan C. Edwards**

#DelawareTheatreCompany



Any recording of this production is a violation of United States copyright laws and an actionable Federal offense.



Out of respect for our actors and your fellow theatregoers, we ask that you remain seated until the curtain calls are over and the house lights have come up.



Smoking is not permitted in the theatre building.



GISELA ADISA

Mama (Alma)

Gisela is a Broadway actress (Beautiful, 1776) who has been nominated for several awards, including the Ovation Awards' Best Supporting Actress for originating the role of Eartha Kitt in Colman Domingo's Lights Out, which was performed at the Geffen. Gisela played Sandra in the Sundance winning film, Nanny. She has enjoyed working in television and voiceover as well. Gisela is honored to have led the cast as John Adams in Diane Paulus' 1776 revival on tour, with sit-downs at the Ahmanson and Kennedy Center. This proud first generation Haitian-American attended Fordham University with a focus on Drama and African Studies.



URIA BENNETT

May

Uria (She/Her) is filled with immense gratitude and excitement to perform in *Stompin'* at the Savoy at Delaware Theater Company! Her credits include Champion (Lyric Opera), Personality: The Lloyd Price Musical (Studebaker Theater), and *Imitation of Life* (Theater 47). She gives all praise to God and extends her gratitude to her family for their unwavering support of her artistic endeavors. @theraluria



DEAN CESTARI

Leo

Dean is honored to be sharing the stage with this incredible company. International: Anatole in the Shanghai Premiere of *Great Comet of 1812*. National Tours: *Mamma Mia! 25th Anniversary, Fiddler on the Roof, A Christmas Story.* Select Regional: *Hairspray* (Link Larkin, White Plains PAC), *Sound of Music* (Rolf u/s, Paper Mill Playhouse), *Kinky Boots* (Charlie u/s, North Shore Music Theatre), *South Pacific* (Professor, Cape Playhouse). TV: *American Horror Story, Law & Order.* Thank you to the entire creative team, crew, The TRC Company & DGRW. For my family, friends & Patrick. @deancestari



AYLA CICCONE-BURTON

Norma

Credits: Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club (Broadway), Six (Broadway), The Great Gatsby (Papermill Playhouse), Tina: The Tina Turner Musical (Broadway), The Book of Mormon (Australia). Sending gratitude to Marc & Dustin, TKS, her family and friends for their love and support & especially her mother, Jacob and Alfiel Stream her debut single "Shiny Thing" out now. Stay weird y'all—hug a tree, gaze at the moon. @aylaccb.



TIARA J. GREENE

U/S Mama/Earldeen/Jean Joyce

Regional: Elf, The Broadway Musical; Elvis: A Musical Revolution (Walnut Street Theatre); Once on this Island, Into the Woods (Arden Theatre Company); Bandstand (Playhouse on Park); The Wild Party (Eagle Theatre): Bonnie and Clyde (11th Hour Theatre Company). Thanks to God! Thanks to family and friends for their continued support! www.tiaragreene.com.



TRESTON J. HENDERSON

Bruce/ Dance Captain

Treston is overjoyed to be a part of Stompin' at the Savoy! Select credits include The Wiz (Broadway), Ain't Too Proud (1st National Tour), A Christmas Story (Goodspeed), RENT, Beautiful, & Ragtime (Broadway at Music Circus). He would like to thank God, his mom & stepdad, family, friends, & Lohne/Graham Management for their continued support. @treston.henderson



MEGHAN HOEY

Eunice

Meghan Hoey (She/Her) is thrilled to be part of this production! Regional: Anastasia (WPPAC), Rock of Ages, Pippin (Firehouse Center for the Arts), Sister School: A New Musical (Moonbox Productions). Workshops: Things With Friends (SOMA Stage, written/directed by Kristoffer Diaz). TV/Film: Invitation to a Bonfire (AMC+). BFA graduate of Boston Conservatory. Thank you to ATB Talent and Tara Rubin Casting. Love to Mom, Dad, Michael, and my friends for their constant support! IG: @meghankyliehoey



REINA GUERRA

U/S Dot/May

Reina Guerra (She/Her) is thrilled to be Stompin at the Delaware Theatre Company! A Native New Yorker who learned to dance on the same sidewalks as Norma Miller and too dreamed of all the places swinging could take her. Credits Include: First National Tour Tina: The Tina Turner Musical (Proud Mary LLC), In The Heights (Muny, Cleveland Playhouse), Runaways (New York City Center) and West Side Story (Carnegie Hall). Film: In The Heights (Warner Bros). Founder of New Eden Cosmetics. Special thanks to her village, for their love and support. Gloria a Dios! @reina2x @newedencosmetics



DRAKE LEACH

Cop, U/S Leo

(He/Him) Arts Center Of Coastal Carolina: Something Rotten. North Shore Music Theatre: Jersey Boys, The Sound of Music. Theatre by the Sea: Jersey Boys. Signature Theatre: Into the Woods, We Shall Someday, She Loves Me. Ford's Theatre: The Trip to Bountiful. Busch Gardens: Celtic Fyre, Bel Concertino. Imagination Stage: Snow Queen. Instagram: @drake_leach. Facebook: Drake Leach. So excited to be making my DTC debut! Thank you Mom and Dad and Jim - go Patriots! GMU '22.



JAMES LUC

Louis

Born and raised in Queens, NY, James began dancing at the young age of 7 and hasn't stopped since. He's worked with musical artists such as Alicia Keys, JLO, Travis Scott, Mariah Carey, Beyoncé and more. James also most recently appeared in the films *Marry Me, In The Heights* and shows such as *Law and Order SVU* and *Harlem*. In life we all have this divine energy to manifest our wildest dreams and that's exactly what James continues to do. He sends a big thank you to friends, family and the most high for being pillars to his strength. @iamrythmj



JARVIS B. MANNING JR.

Hollis "Holly" Spencer

Jarvis B. Manning Jr. is a native of Houston,TX, a Graduate of HSPVA (Beyoncé's School). Co-founder of Staged Masterclasses, an organization created to bridge the gap between underserved communities and quality lessons in the arts. 2022 Outstanding Supporting Berkie Award Winner for Andre' in Ain't Misbehavin'. His favorite credits include: Broadway: Ain't Too Proud (Al Bryant, David Ruffin u/s), Motown (Jackie Wilson-Rick James and Billy Gordon u/s), and Some Like It Hot (Jerry/Daphne u/s). TV/Film: Law & Order (Dangerous Game). The Purgatory of Ghosts and Grief. Founder of BrainArtPhotography.com @BrainArt



MAIESHA MCQUEEN

Hattie/Jean Jovce

Maiesha McQueen is an Atlanta-raised, multi-faceted artist and educator. She starred as Becky in Broadway's *Waitress* and *Come From Away*'s inaugural run in Gander, Newfoundland. Noted regional credits include *The Color Purple, Mahalial, Fannie, His Eye is on the Sparrow, Until the Flood*, and *Chasin' Dem Blues*. A Suzi Bass Award winner, she was named a New York Times Critics' Pick for *Ain't Misbehavin'*. She is the founder of A Bite Out of Broadway, a training and exposure program for young musical theatre artists. IG: @maieshamcqueen www.maieshamcqueen.com



LILIANA RODRIGUEZ

U/S Fernanda

(She/Her) Is thrilled to make her DTC debut! Credits include: Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (The Old Globe), A Chorus Line (City Springs Theatre), West Side Story (KC Starlight), In The Heights (Cleveland Playhouse), Sunday In The Park With George (CCAE Theatricals), An American In Paris (MTW), The Wedding Singer, Something Rotten!, On Your Feet! (Moonlight Amphitheatre), Evita (Cygnet Theatre), Catch Me If You Can, All Shook Up (San Diego Musical Theatre). Eternally grateful for the support of her family, love yall! @lilianarodriguez_10 on Instagram.



MIKAELA SECADA

Fernanda

Born and raised in Miami, FL, Mikaela Secada is an Afro-Cuban singer, dancer, and actor!! Credits include: Back to the Future (Broadway), Kinky Boots (Bucks County Playhouse), Legally Blonde, In The Heights (MTWichita), A Crossing (BarringtonStage), Beastgirl (KennedyCenter), West Side Story (TheLex.) TV: The Endgame (NBCUniversal), Lioness (Paramount+), Blue Bloods (CBS). Proud alum of University of Michigan! Love and gratitude to all family and friends! Thank you to my agents at HCKR! Xoxo! @mikasecada



DEVON SINCLAIR

U/S Holly/Bruce/Louis

The Penn State alum is grateful to be stompin' with this great company! Devon works across the Greater Philadelphia region as an Actor, Director/Choreographer, and a Professor at Temple University. Recent projects include Jesus Christ Superstar (Fulton Theatre), Kinky Boots (New Light Theatre), Beautiful (Walnut Street Theatre), Once on this Island (Arden Theatre), and The Color Purple (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Devon is also the 2024 & 2023 Barrymore Award Winner for Outstanding Choreography in a Musical. Vibrant thanks to his community of loved ones!

FiveSixDevonEight.com | @CHOREATOR



MAYA SISTRUCK

Farldoon

Maya Sistruck (She/Her) is a NYC-based multi-hyphenate who is thrilled to be joining the DTC community! Theatre credits include: Gatsby (American Repertory Theatre), The Great Gatsby (Paper Mill Playhouse). TV/film: Up Here (Hulu), East New York (CBS). Education: University of Michigan BFA Musical Theatre. Much love and gratitude for the Sistrucks and team at Buchwald and Solstice Talent! @mayalynns / mayasistruck.com



MAYA JEROME THOMAS

Dot, U/S Norma

(She/Her) Past credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Broadway). MJ is a multihyphenate artist originally hailing from Maryland. She's so excited to be part of the team! Biggest thank you to everyone who breathes life into this piece, her team at Innovative Artists, her support system that runs deeper than the ocean, Q, and her mama. For Dad, always. @msmighty_



CARA TREACY

U/S Eunice

Cara (She/Her) is so excited to be making her Delaware Theatre Company debut with this incredible company! Favorite credits include: Beauty and the Beast (TUTS), Cabaret (Arden Theatre), Evita (Fulton Theatre), Hello Dolly (Act II Playhouse), Sweet Charity (BCCPA), and West Side Story (Media Theatre). She also danced professionally with Ballet San Antonio and Connecticut Ballet. Love to Mom, Dad, and Deirdre for their endless support!



ALAN GOVENAR Playwright

Alan is an award-winning writer, playwright, poet, photographer, and filmmaker. A Guggenheim Fellow, Govenar is the author of more than forty books, including Come Round Right, Stompin' at the Savoy, and Osceola: Memories of a Sharecropper's Daughter (First Place, Children's Non-Fiction, New York Book Festival). Govenar's theatrical works include musicals he has created with Akin Babatundé: Blind Lemon: Prince of Country Blues (Leon Rabin Award, Best New Musical), Blind Lemon Blues, and Lonesome Blues. Govenar's musical, Texas in Paris, had its world premiere at the York Theatre (New York City) and was featured at the Festival de l'Imaginaire (Paris).

PHAEDRA MICHELLE SCOTT Playwright

Phaedra (She/Her) is a writer based in New York City. Her playwriting credits include Good Hair (Commissioned by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant); Diaspora! (2024 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding New Script) and Plantation Black (2026 World Premiere InterAct Theater Company). Her podcast work includes Pleasure Machine developed with Colt Coer. She is an alum of InterAct Lobstah Lab, Playwrights Horizons New Works Lab, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Seven Devils Theater Conference, Great Plains Theater Conference, Pipeline PlayLab, and the Obie Award winning writing group Youngblood with Ensemble Studio Theater. She is a writer with CBS/Showtime on King Shaka. Proud Member of the Dramatists Guild and Writers Guild of America. phaedrascott.com

EDGAR GODINEAUX

Director/Choreographer

(He/Him) Choreographer: Jelly's Last Jam (City Center Encores!), Lights Out: Nat "King" Cole (New York Theatre Workshop). Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama Desk Award Nominee Outstanding Choreography The Harder They Come (The Public Theater). Jeff Awards Nominee Personality: The Lloyd Price Musical (Studebaker Theater in Chicago). NAACP Nominee Best Director/Choreography for Larger Theatre in LA Memphis, the Musical. Broadway Associate Choreographer: Ain't Too Proud, (Tony Award Best Choreography), Memphis, the Musical (Tony Award Best Musical; Olivier Award Best Choreography). Director/Choreographer: HITCity Temptations Edition, a new Broadway style concert. This one's for Frankie Manning and Norma Miller. @egoconcepts edgargodineaux.com

GREG ANTHONY RASSEN

Music Supervisor, Arranger, and Additional Orchestrations

Drama Desk winner and Tony nominee for Bandstand. Other Broadway credits include: An American In Paris, Bullets Over Broadway, Little Mermaid, Book of Mormon, R&H's Cinderella, A Chorus Line (Revival). Composer: Tulsa Ballet's Remember Our Song by Andy Blankenbuehler. Arranger/orchestrator: Bandstand (Broadway), Bruce (Seattle Rep), Between The Lines (Second Stages), Jerry Springer: The Opera (New Group), Beast In The Jungle (Vineyard); New York Pops, Boston Pops; Renée Elise Goldsberry, Leslie Odom, Jr., André Previn. M.M. degree from Cincinnati Conservatory of

JAMES NOONE

Scenic Designer

Broadway productions include Sunset Boulevard, Lady Day At Emerson's Bar and Grill, A Time to Kill, Match, A Bronx Tale (play), A Class Act, Jekyll and Hyde, The Rainmaker, The Sunshine Boys, The Gin Game, Inherit The Wind, and many others. Off-Broadway productions designed include The Boys In The Band, In Masks Outrageous and Austere, White Chocolate, Frankie and Johnny in The Clair de Lune, Ruthless!, Full Gallop, Fully Committed, Three Tall Women, Manhattan Theatre Club, Irish Rep, PlaywrightsHorizons. Lincoln Center Theatre, The Women's Project and Productions and others. Opera Companies he has designed for are The English National Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, Washington National Opera. Los Angeles Opera, Lyric Opera Of Chicago, Atlanta Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Boston Lyric Opera and others. For TV and Film his work has appeared on Live from Lincoln Center, Great Performances, HBO. Awards include the American Theatre Wing Design, Drama Desk, Helen Hayes, and LA Ovation awards.

DEVARIO D. SIMMONS

Costume Designer

Devario is an American Costume Designer; his credits include Broadway: Thoughts of a Colored Man; Off-Broadway: Table 17, The White Chip, Bees and Honey, Tumacho, Between the Bars, Emergency! and P.S. Additionally, Simmons has had the pleasure of being a guest artist at: Santa Fe Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Opera St. Louis. His regional credits include MCC, The Geffen Playhouse, Clarence Brown Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Asolo Rep., TheatreSquared, Geva Theatre, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, Bucks County Playhouse, The Long Wharf Theatre, Jean's Playhouse, Syracuse Stage and Baltimore Center Stage. Other credits include Rustin (Netflix), three seasons of AMC's television show *Turn*, the 2nd National Touring production of In the Heights and two seasons of PBS television series Mercy Street. Member of United Scenic Artist 829.

ALAN C. EDWARDS

Lighting DesignerWest End: *Harry Clarke*. Off-B'way: *Sally & Tom* (Public); Sunset Baby, Fires in The Mirror [Lortel Nom.], Twilight: LA 1992 (Signature NYC); Harry Clarke [Lortel Award] (Vineyard); Kill Move Paradise [Drama Desk nom] (NBT); A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night (CTH); Dakar 2000 (MTC). Regional: Appropriate (Old Globe); Beautiful (Asolo Rep); Gatsby: An American Myth, Twilight: LA 1992 (A.R.T.). Dance: In The Same Tongue (Dianne McIntyre); Chasing Magic, NYCC Artists at The Center '23 (Ayodele Casel); Lifted by Christopher Rudd for American Ballet Theatre. Broadway: Assoc. to Jennifer Tipton on The Testament of Mary. Teaching: Yale School of Drama. www.alancedwards.com

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JON WESTON

Sound Designer

Broadway design credits include: The Wiz; Parade; Paradise Square: Prince of Broadway; She Loves Me; Amazing Grace; An American in Paris; On the 20th Century; You Can't Take It With You; The Bridges of Madison County; How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying; 13: The Musical; Les Misérables (2006 revival); The Color Purple; Caroline, or Change (Audelco award); Nine; Thoroughly Modern Millie. Off-Broadway and Regional: The Connector; Double Helix (Bay Street); Ragtime (Bay Street); The Prompter (Bay Street); Evita (Bay Street); Grey Gardens (Bay Street & The Ahmanson); The Last Five Years (Second Stage)

NIKIYA MATHIS Co-Wig Designer

Nikiya Mathis (She/Her) is a multi-hyphenate actress and hair/wig designer, with an MFA in Acting from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She most notably made Broadway history as the first wig designer to receive a special Tony Award for Jaja's African Hair Braiding. Her recent credits include the reimagining of Cats The Jellicle Ball, Liberation, Purpose, Wine In The Wilderness & Goddess the Musical among others. She is the recipient of the Obie, Henry Hewes, Black Women on Broadway, and Drama Desk awards. @our_black_tresses @nikiyamathis.

NATALIA CASTILLA Co-Wig Designer and Makeup Designer

Natalia is a NYC-based designer and wigmaker. Broadway: Purpose (Assoc. Design). Off-Broadway/ Regional: The Shed, Northlight Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, Majestic Repertory Theatre. Other artist credits include work for: Saturday Night Live, Cirque du Soleil, productions of McNeal, Uncle Vanya, Flex (Lincoln Center Theatre), plus national tours of Phantom of the Opera and To Kill a Mockingbird. www.natraqdesign.com

CIERA MILLER

Assistant Director

Ciera Miller (She/Her) is a NYC based director who loves new works. Past directing credits include: Funeral for a Dog (Miller & Harlow); The Dark (In Confidence), Cafe Blitz (In Confidence), Stuck (Curious Theatre Works); Love is a Blue Tick Hound (Curious Theatre Works), Evermore (Curious Theatre Works), Hootenanny Tonight (Off the Lane), and The Elevator (New York Theatre Festival). Assistant credits include Hadestown Second National Tour and Primero Sueño (METLiveArts). She is half of the theater duo Miller & Harlow, the pair were 2023 Jonathan Larson Grant Honorable Mentions and are always working on something new. cieramiller.com

KAELI CARR

Associate Choreographer (She/Her) Associate Choreographer Personality: *The* Lloyd Price Musical (Studebaker Theater in Chicago). Assistant Choreographer Lights Out: Nat "King" Cole (New York Theatre Workshop). Associate Director/Choreographer: HITCity Temptations Edition, a new Broadway style concert. Regional: Memphis, the Musical and In the Heights (Musical Theatre West), A Chorus Line (Morgan-Wixson

Theatre), Beauty and the Beast (Plan-B Entertainment). Television: Bunheads, Law and Order SVU, FBI, Law and Order Organized Crime.

EVA LA DARE

Assistant Choreographer

Eva is an actress, dancer, and voice-over artist born in Brooklyn, New York and currently living in Los Angeles. Eva La Dare's swing dancing skills and daring Lindy hop aerials have been seen around the world as the lead dancer in Brian Setzer's music videos Jump, Jive, and Wail and In The Mood to the iconic GAP Swing commercial where she also assisted choreographer Travis Payne. As lead swing dancer in the OutKast movie Idlewild, choreographed by Hinton Battle, Eva performed breath-taking aerials with her dance partner, Stompin' At The Savoy's choreographer, Edgar Godineaux.

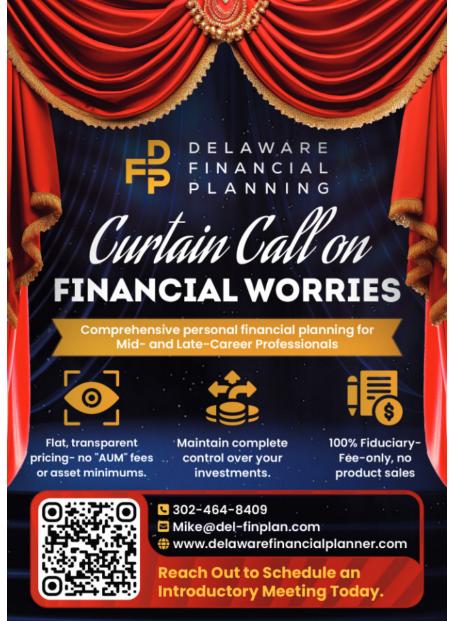
BRIAN WHITTED

Music Director

Brian is a native of North Carolina and a product of homeschooling, the University of NC School of the Arts (high school) and UNC Greensboro (college), where he studied Piano Performance. He has been a church musician and choir director since the age of 8. After college, he moved to New York City which is where he started his career. Becoming the Music Director of the George Faison Firehouse in Harlem, allowed him to work with such artists as Stephanie Mills, Roberta Flack, Tony Terry, Melba Moore, Bebe Winans, Cook, Dixon and Young, Phylicia Rashad, Mario Cantone, Brian McKnight and Ashford & Simpson. He has also accompanied Jennifer Holiday, Norm Lewis, Tituss Burgess, Brenda Braxton, and Leslie Odom Jr. in concert. He is very proud to have been part-time pianist, arranger, and background singer for Bette Midler for nearly ten years. While working with her, he made his Carnegie Hall debut, a concert hosted by James Taylor. Brian has subbed for many broadway shows such as Violet, Shuffle Along and The Color Purple. He made his Broadway debut with Chicago the Musical and worked for that production for 14 years. He made his conducting debut with the same show. Brian now lives in Wilmington and works as Music Director of the Opera House Theater Company.

MING ALDRICH-GAN

Score Supervisor/Copyist
Ming has worked on 13 Broadway shows, including Hamilton, Aladdin, and Bandstand. He has conducted Dear Evan Hansen both on Broadway and on the national tour, and played on the national tours of Wicked, Hamilton, Cats, and An American in Paris. He is also an avid arranger and orchestrator, and attended the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop as a composer. He currently splits his time between New York and Nashville, where he lives with his wife and children. www.amazming.com



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TARA CUNNIFFE

Props Manager

Tara (She/They) is a Philadelphia based props and production designer. A graduate of Temple University and the Walnut Street Theatre Apprentice Program, her theater credits include Calvin Barrows (Theatre by Development), Burt and Me (Gretna Theatre), Beautiful; Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf; and Beauty and the Beast; (Walnut Street Theatre), Everybody (Temple University), and Group Project (Philadelphia Fringe Festival). Short film credits include To Keep Your Vital Organs Warm (dir. Sophie Aguila) and The Past, Tonight, With Mars Apollo (Babellion Studios), for which she was nominated for Best Set Design in The Art of Movie Making Film Festival. @tara_cunniffe_design

CONOR MULLIGAN

Associate Lighting Designer (He/Him) Associate/Assistant Credits include: Dakar 2000 (Manhattan Theatre Club), Summer: The Donna Summer Musical (Norwegian Cruise Lines), Four Quartets (Bard SummerScape, BAM), Next To Normal (The Kennedy Center), Because Of Winn Dixie (Goodspeed Opera House), The Play That Goes Wrong (New World Stages), Waitress 1st National Tour (The Waitress Tour). Kinky Boots 2nd National Tour (Troika). @Zombified_347 and www.conormulliganld.com

JOHN MILLERD

Associate Sound Designer
John (They/Them) is a NYC-based associate sound designer and mixer. Broadway credits include The Wiz (Marquis & U.S. National Tour), Parade (Jacobs & U.S. National Tout) and *Paradise Square* (Barrymore). Regional and abroad credits include: The Goodman Theatre (Chicago) Papermill Playhouse (NJ), Berkeley Repertory Theatre (CA), Bay Street Theatre (NY), and Oceania Cruises. John is a proud member of both IATSE Local USA 829 and Local 415. Endless thanks to my family and friends for their most excellent love and support.

RUIRAN XUN

Music Assistant

Ruiran (She/Her) is a NYC-based collaborative pianist, music director, and conductor. She recently music assisted and substitute piano-conducted The Jonathan Larson Project (off-Broadway). Ruiran relocated last year from the San Francisco Bay Area, where some notable music direction credits include JUSTICE: A New Musical (Marin Theatre), Assassins (Stanford TAPS), and A Little Night Music (South Bay Musical Theatre). She is an alumna of Carnegie Mellon University, where she studied chemistry, computer science, and collaborative piano. @xun.ruiran https://ruiran.me

lark hackshaw

Production Stage Manager

Broadway: The Cottage, for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf, Chicken & Biscuits, A Soldier's Play, Stick Fly. Off-Broadway: Dorothy Dandridge! The Musical, The Best We Could, Simon Says, Cork, Mama I Want To Sing. Tours: Anne & Émmett, Bring in the Noise, Bring in the Funk with Savion Glover,

Dreamgirls with Jennifer Holiday. Regional: Alliance Theatre (30 years), Hartford Stage, Pasadena Playhouse, Dallas Theater Company, Indiana Rep, Arena Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, San Jose Rep, Arizona Theatre Co., Trinity Rep, MUNY, N.C Black Repertory Company. lark is a longtime Line Producer/Executive Assistant for Winston-Salem's National Black Theatre Festival. Awards: Outstanding Achievement in Stage Managing (NBTF), Outstanding Achievement for a Howard Alumni (Howard University)

LIZ FORRESTER

Assistant Stage Manager

Liz (She/ Her) is excited to be returning to Delaware Theatre Company for a third season. Some of her stage managing credits include Peter & the Starcatcher, Man of La Mancha and One Man, Two Guvnors (Delaware Theatre Company), A Few Good Men (Bristol Riverside Theatre), An Evening with Groucho (Walnut Street Theatre), Sherlock Holmes Hound of the Baskervilles and Jekyll & Hyde in concert (Gretna Theatre). She is a Philadelphia based stage manager and a graduate of Millersville University.

EMILY MCGREGOR

Assistant Stage Manager

(They/She) Thrilled to be back for their third season! Favorite DTC credits include Man of La Mancha, Noises Off, Peter & the Starcatcher, and Always...Patsy Cline. Other stage management credits include Virginia Theatre Festival, Quintessence Theatre Group, Walnut Street Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company, and Carolina Performing Arts. Em hails from eastern North Carolina, is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, and currently lives in Philadelphia. Love to M & H. For

MIMI WARNICK

Artistic Director

Mimi (She/Her) is thrilled to recently be named Artistic Director of DTC. She is very excited to present Stompin' at the Savoy, and is incredibly excited to share the 2025-2026 season with audiences. Mimi has an extensive background developing and directing new plays and musicals. She previously served as the Director of New York at AMT Theater in New York City. A few of her favorite directing credits include Little Women at Upper Darby Summer Stage, Cabaret at University of Pennsylvania, Hear/Now Live with Keen Company, and of course working with Bud Martin on Brighton Beach Memoirs at DTC. Mimi holds a BFA in Directing from Emerson College. Mimi would like to thank the entire Stompin' team for a wonderful year of creation and collaboration, and bringing this special new story to Wilmington.

THE TRC COMPANY Casting

Led by partners Claire Burke, Kevin Metzger-Timson, Xavier Rubiano, and Peter Van Dam. Broadway: Dead Outlaw, BOOP! The Musical, Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends, Buena Vista Social Club, Death Becomes Her, Left on Tenth, The Outsiders, SIX, Aladdin. National Tours: The Phantom Of The Opera, Beauty & The Beast, Water For Elephants, The Wiz, Back To The Future, Mamma Mial, Les Misérables. The TRC Company is proud to continue the casting legacy of Tara Rubin Casting and Johnson-Liff Associates.

DOCUMENTARY ARTS

Producer

Documentary Arts was founded in 1985 to advance essential perspectives on historical issues and diverse cultures and has produced exhibitions, publications, radio, films, and interactive media. Since 1997, Documentary Arts has developed new works of musical theatre, including Blind Lemon: Prince of Country Blues (WaterTower Theatre), Blind Lemon Blues (York Theatre, Audelco Award Best Director - Akin Babatundé), Lonesome Blues, and Texas in Paris (Lortel nomination, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical - Lillias White). Documentary Arts productions have been staged in the United States and abroad, including Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland; and nine cities in The Netherlands and Belgium. documentaryarts.org



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The Director & Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, an independent national labor union.



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Stompin' At the Savoy Finale

CREDITS

I Want To Be An Actor Lady

Words by Vincent Bryan, Music by Harry Von Tilzer, 1903

I Can't Dance (I Got Ants In My Pants)

Words and Music by Charles Gaines and Clarence Williams, 1934

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Stompin' At The Savoy

Written by Benny Goodman, Chick Webb and Edgar Sampson, 1934
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Sing Me A Swing Song (And Let Me Dance)

Written by Hoagy Carmichael and Stanley Adams, 1936

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Darktown Strutters' Ball

Words and Music by Shelton Brooks, 1917

Trouble In Mind

Written by Richard M. Jones, 1926

Nobody

Words by Alex Rogers, Music by Bert Williams, 1905

At The Ball That's All

Words and Music by J. Leubrie Hill, 1913

I Want To Be Happy

Words by Irving Caesar, Music by Vincent Youmans, 1925

Flat Foot Floogie

Written by Leroy "Slam" Stewart, Bulee "Slim" Gaillard, and Bud Green, 1937 Used by permission of Holliday Publishing, O'Vouti Publishing and Jewel Music Publishing Co. Inc. All rights reserved.

'Tain't What You Do

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Waiting For The Sunrise

Words by Eugene Lockhart, Music by Ernest Seitz, 1919

Stompin' At the Savoy Finale

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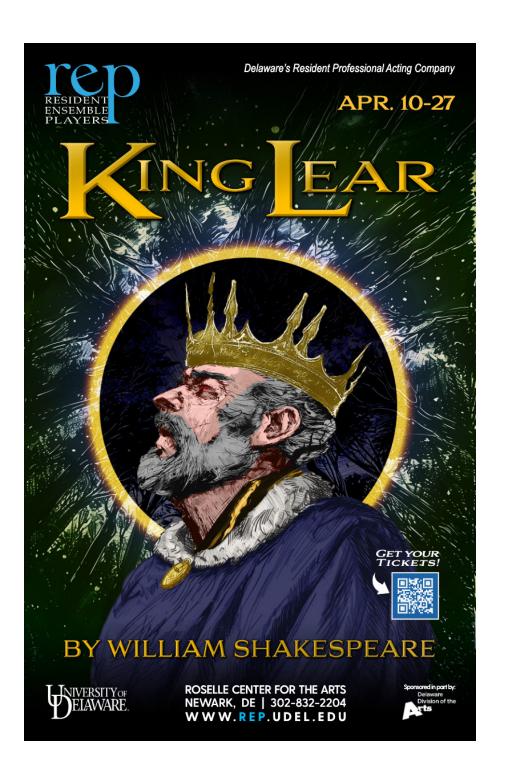
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WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LAYON GRAY

Gray (Black Angels Over Tuskegee and Kings of Harlem) sheds light on the untold story of the Red Diamonds, an all-Black female baseball team in 1946. As the team prepares to challenge the reigning champions, the Racine Belles, in a historic showdown, disaster strikes when their beloved coach mysteriously vanishes. What begins as a fierce pursuit of victory soon descends into a unraveling of secrets—betrayal and deception threaten to destroy everything they've worked for. Winner of the prestigious NAACP Award for Best Play, this gripping drama will keep you on the edge of your seat, questioning the cost of victory.



DECEMBER 3-21

BOOK AND LYRICS BY DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE MUSIC BY JEANINE TESORI

Together with our friends at Wolf Performing Arts Center, celebrate the holiday season with Shrek the Musical. This heartwarming show, based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks movie, captures the spirit of transformation, as unlikely heroes and heroines embark on a journey to find their place in the world, but discover that true beauty lies within. Shrek the Musical is perfect for the whole family, and is a festive reminder that we are the best versions of ourselves when sharing life with our communities and loved ones.



FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 8

U.S. PREMIERE!

BOOK BY VICTORIA AND TODD BUCHHOLZ

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY VICTORIA BUCHHOLZ

Based on the true story of legendary Tour de France champion Gino Bartali, *Glory Ride* takes you on a thrilling ride of defiance, sacrifice, and hope. During World War II, Bartali led a secret life, conspiring with the Cardinal of Florence to save hundreds of persecuted innocents from Mussolini's Fascists. Cycling thousands of miles, this unlikely team pulled off an incredible heist, creating the fastest resistance network the world never knew about... until now. Following a sold-out London debut, DTC is proud to present the US premiere, transporting audiences to the hills of Tuscany for an unforgettable emotional adventure.



APRIL 15-MAY 3

WORLD PREMIERE!

STORY BY JACK DENMAN, EYAKENO EKPO, SELENA SEBALLO, & MIMI WARNICK BOOK AND LYRICS BY CONCEIVED BY SELENA SEBALLO JACK DENMAN MIMI WARNICK

Set against the stirring soundscape of sea shanties, *The Chequerboard Watch* tells the tale of a crew of sailors on a challenging voyage aboard the 19th century clipper ship, the Blue Jacket. What begins as a smooth voyage to South Australia, quickly goes awry due to the captain's orders going against the natural rhythms of the sea, and ultimately the well being and safety of his crew. Dive into the depths of human solidarity with this thrilling tale of how the songs and spirits of the sea forge bonds that transcend all divides.

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