#### WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**PRESENTS** 



# MUSIC AND LYRICS BY FRANK LOESSER | BOOK BY JO SWERLING AND ABE BURROWS BASED ON A STORY AND CHARACTERS BY DAMON RUNYON

Costume Designer **Darci Collins** 

Wig Designer **Dominique Freeman** 

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Set Designers

**Donna & Mark Buckalter** 

Production Manager **Kevin White** 

Production Stage Manager

Juanita Munford\*

Assistant Stage Manager

Travis Rav\*

Assistant Choreographer **Monessa Salley** 

Lighting Designer
Michael Pasquini

Sound Designer **Patrick Russini** 

Video Projections Designer **Alex Pinchin** 

Music Director

## **Christopher Jordan**

Director & Choreographer

Jim Weaver\*

### October 7-November 20, 2022

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

## Scenery constructed by Asolo Rep Scenic Studios.

SDC the Director is

<sup>†</sup> The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union. Paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues. This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Arts & Culture, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture, and the State of Florida.



\* Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

#### **CAST**

**Phyllis Banks** Brian L. Boyd Lee Hollis Bussie\* Michael Charles\* Jessica Eckenrod Derric Gobourne, Jr. **Kirstin Angelina Henry Brentney J** Marta McKinnon Michael Mejia-Mendez\* **Carvas Pickens** Warren G. Nolan, Jr.\* Leon S. Pitts\* **Aaron Pottenger\* Thomas-Matthew Elijah Shands** Jai Shanae **Jacob Smith Ciarra Stroud** 

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

#### **MUSICIANS**

Our live band plays backstage!

Music Director/Keys 1	Christopher Jordan
Keys 2	Christine Bruno
Bass	Joe Bruno
Trumpet	Bill Karow
Drums	John Walker
Reeds	Jason Whitmore

## WBTT TEAM

Founder & Artistic Director	Nate Jacobs
Executive Director	Julie Leach
	Regina Belvin
Artist Relations Associate & As	ssistant Box Office Manager <b>Ariel Blue</b>
Properties Artisan Manager	Annette Breazeale
Stage HandsAnd	rea Coleman, Tianna Harris, Kiamani Kanady
Resident Seamstress	Darci Collins
Properties Intern	Jayde Dauley
-	Debra Flynt-Garrett
Resident Choreographer	Donald Frison
Receptionist & Box Office Ass	ociate <b>Arnette German</b>
Finance Manager	Robert Grant
Marketing And Communicatio	ns Director Beth Graves
Sound Assistant	Austin Jacobs
_	Alexander Judd
	Gerald Law
	Margaret Lindsey
	Matthew Mckinnon
House Associate / Stage Hand	Mydra Mckinnon
~	Myllanna Mckinnon
	Eleanor Miller
Production Stage Manager	Juanita Munford
	Amber Myers
	Michael Pasquini
_	Adrienne Pitts
	Maicy Powell
	Travis Ray
_	Patrick Russini
	Shane Streight
	AssociateJim Weaver
_	Kevin White
	or <b>Donovan Whitney</b>
<b>.</b>	Sorcha Augustine
-	Scott Ferguson
	Sharon Kunkel, Wordslinger Marketing & PR
	Paula Murray, Artefact Design
Videography	James Berry/Captivision Media &
	Bill Wagy/Bill Wagy Productions

#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Guys and Dolls - what a classic piece of American musical theatre! It's a member of an elite group, having achieved a level of admiration and respect that few musicals get to enjoy. It has been seen by millions through innumerable productions across the country and around the world.

I recall seeing a 1992 revival on Broadway that starred Faith Prince and Nathan Lane — it was magical! But even before that, in 1976, I was fortunate to see the first all-Black production of Guys and Dolls on Broadway. At the time, the idea for a show of this kind was revolutionary and could conceivably be credited with helping to usher in the concept of non-traditional casting — it was that successful. It starred Robert Guillaume, Ernestine Jackson, Ken Page, James Randolph and Norma Donaldson, all renowned Broadway stars.

Personally, having the opportunity to direct and choreograph this production for WBTT is, in many ways, a full circle moment (times two) for me. Fast-forward several years after seeing that groundbreaking performance in 1976 to finding myself being directed in another show by the very man who spearheaded that Broadway hit: Mr. Billy Wilson.

So, now, here I am, enjoying the opportunity to revisit two wonderful memories at the same time, thanks to the trust and generosity of Nate Jacobs, Julie Leach, and all of the wonderful supporters of WBTT — and I even get to put my own spin on it. I'm a firm believer in, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," but anyone who lives in the world of creativity wants to present something at least a little different. The trick is to find a way to balance that creative desire while not trampling on a classic.

I truly hope what you see in this production achieves that balance in the most enjoyable way!

#### -Jim Weaver

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

#### **ACT ONE**

Company
Nicely, Benny, Rusty
Sarah, Mission Band
Nathan, Nicely, Benny, Guys
Sarah, Sky
Miss Adelaide, The Hot Box Girls
Miss Adelaide
Nicely, Benny
The Company
Sarah, Sky
Sky
Sky, Sarah

## **ACT TWO**

Take Back Your Mink	Miss Adelaide, The Hot Box Girls
Adelaide's Second Lament	Miss Adelaide
More I Cannot Wish You	Arvide
Crapshooters Dance	The Guys
Luck Be a Lady Tonight	Sky, The Guys
Sue Me	Miss Adelaide, Nathan
Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat	Nicely, Company
Marry the Man Today	Miss Adelaide, Sarah
Guys and Dolls (Reprise)	Company



#### **PHYLLIS BANKS**

(General Cartwright) is a Sarasota native and has been acting for well over 25 years! She has performed in numerous productions with the Players of Sarasota, Manatee Players, and

Venice Theatre. She performed with Nate Jacobs for years before Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe was born; she appeared most recently at WBTT in our 2019–2020 season in Your Arms Too Short to Box with God. Phyllis recently retired from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office after 34 years of service and is thrilled to be back on the WBTT stage!



BRIAN L. BOYD (Sky Masterson) was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Performance. Brian was voted Broadway World

Vocalist of the Decade for Sarasota in 2020. He presented his Young Artist Program, A Rhapsody Revelation in 2019. His WBTT appearances include Eubie!, Caroline, or Change, The Amen Corner, Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Raisin, The Mountaintop, A Motown Christmas, In The Heights, Broadway In Black, Dearly Departed, Black Nativity, and How I Got Over: A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson. Brian performed with the troupe at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem. N.C. in 2017. Other regional credits include Ragtime (Coalhouse Walker Jr.), Smokey Joe's Cafe (Ken), and Motones Vs. Jerseys. Recent films Brian is featured in include Co-Pilot, The Bridge To The Other Side, and the upcoming film Spare Me. Brian is the Co-Director of M.A.D. Music Acting Dance Inc. with fellow artist Brentney J.. he is also the Artistic Director of his own company, The Enigma Artistic Experience.



#### LEE HOLLIS BUSSIE\*

(Benny Southstreet) Lee Hollis is thrilled to be making his WBTT debut! Off Broadway credits include: Soul Doctor (Actor Temples Theatre) Whoopee!, Little Mary Sunshine

(Theatre Row). Other selected credits include: Papermill Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, The Barnstormers Theatre, Tibbits Opera House, Black Hills Playhouse, West Central Illinois Arts Center, Second Avenue Theatre & Charleston Stage. Some of his favorite roles include: Lloyd Boateng- One Man, Two Guvnors, Lockwood - History Boys, Inspector Japp - Black Coffee, Fred - A Christmas Carol, Tom Collins- RENT, & Jamie - The Last 5 Years. Much love & thanks to family/friends & his agents at The Movement. Contact: leehollisbussie. com; IG: @leehollisbussie



#### **MICHAEL CHARLES\***

(Dance Captain/ Dance Ensemble) is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He attended The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he was a double major in Theater

& Dance. After moving to New York, he's been in a host of regional theater productions around the United States, a company dancer at AROVA Contemporary Ballet, a Production Cast Principal (Singer-Dancer) for Norwegian Cruise Lines & is an award-winning instructor and choreographer for various competitive dance teams & performing arts institutions in the southeast.



#### JESSICA ECKENROD

(Agatha, Ensemble) is excited for her debut at WBTT AND first Sarasota production! A transplant from Greenville-SC, she is thrilled to be working alongside such stellar castmates. She

moonlights as a singer/songwriter/actor with original works such as *Letters from the Public* and *Herstory* while continuing her growth in Theatre Management by day. Most recent onstage credits include *Cry It Out* (Lena) and Mister and Mischief's

<sup>\*</sup> Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

interactive experience Objectivity (Mary Del Campo) at The Warehouse Theatre. Favorite roles include Avenue Q (Kate Monster, Lucy); Dreamgirls (Effie); Ragtime (Sarah); and Into the Woods (Baker's Wife).



#### DERRIC GOBOURNE,

JR. (Dance Ensemble) has appeared in WBTT's productions of Broadway in Black, Joyful! Joyful!, Your Arms Too Short to Box with God. Black Nativity, Raisin, A

Motown Christmas, In the Heights, Soul Man and Rockin' Down Fairytale Lane, among others. In 2019 he appeared in WBTT's production of Soul Man at the National Black Theatre Festival. He has appeared in two WBTT Young Artist Programs, The Greatest Entertainer in 2020 and SH!NE in 2022. A graduate of Manatee High School and a selftaught musician, Derric made his debut appearance with WBTT as the talented Little Stevie Wonder in Best of Stevie Wonder in the summer of 2013. In June 2018, Derric released his debut album, Supremacy, which was rereleased in Japan under the P-Vine Record Label. In 2020 he released a holiday album, Oh, What Fun! The albums are available on every digital platform, including iTunes, Amazon Music, YouTube, Spotify and Google Play Music.



## **HENRY** (Sister Sarah) has recently graduated from Kent State

KIRSTIN ANGELINA

University with a B.F.A in Musical Theatre. Past credits include West Side Story (Rosalia), BKLYN (Brooklyn) at

Porthouse Theatre, *Heathers* (Veronica) at Western Reserve Playhouse, and She Kills Monsters (Tilly) at Kent State. She would like to thank Jim and Chris for their trust throughout this beautiful process; her powerhouse castmates and crew for sharing this story with her; Sandra Ross for being a vocal coach sent from God; and Mom, Dad, Colin, Dylan, and Michaela for all of their love and support. Her performances are dedicated to Papa, GG and Uncle Kevin. Represented by: Pantera/ Murphy the Agency, kirstinangelinahenry. com



**BRENTNEY J** (Hot Box Girl/Dance Ensemble) is a native of Atlanta and an alumna of Bethune-Cookman University. Although she received her BS in Chemistry and MPH Certification from Georgia State University.

her best chemistry has always been on the stage. She has been featured in television and film projects, but her love for performing thrives on the stage. Her niche for musical theatre has allowed her to perform at WBTT in shows including A Motown Christmas, The Amen Corner, Raisin, Broadway in Black, Black Nativity, In the Heights and Eubie!. She has also been seen in a production of Chicago: The Musical (Columbus, Ga.) as a Cell Block Girl, and Ain't Misbehavin' (Venice, Fla.) as Charlaine. She launched M.A.D. Music Acting Dance Inc. with fellow artist Brian L. Boyd. Their mission is to educate, create, and inspire art through music, acting and dance. Her hope is to create triple-threat performers who can take their talents anywhere!



#### MARTA MCKINNON

(Miss Adelaide) returned to the WBTT stage last season in the cast of Joyful! Joyful! after a six-year hiatus. Marta's work with the troupe includes her role as Audrey in Little Shop

of Horrors. She also performed in Cotton Club Cabaret and Broadway Under the Stars, WBTT's 2015 gala. She has traveled internationally with the production company II Live Entertainment and has performed at Walt Disney World's Epcot and Animal Kingdom. Marta's credits also include roles in Dreamgirls, Lil and Louis, Heathers: The Musical and animation voiceovers. She has been playing the violin since the age of 6 and is also a private instructor. Marta is thankful to God, her family, and close friends for their constant love and support.



MICHAEL MEJIA-MENDEZ\* (Lt. Brannigan) is in his 13th season with WBTT; he appeared in *Broadway in Black* in March 2022 and *Joyful! Joyful!* in December 2021. A talented actor and singer, Michael

received stellar reviews and a Handy Award (Jay Handelman, Herald-Tribune) for his performance as Usnavi in WBTT's 2017 production of In the Heights. He earned rave reviews for his impressive work in Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Soul Man and Soul Crooners. He starred as Harry Belafonte in the Troupe's 2014 hit, Harry and Lena, was Seymour in the 2015 blockbuster Little Shop of Horrors and played the title role in 2016's The Wiz. Michael has performed many times in WBTT festival appearances, most recently at the 2022 National Black Theatre Festival in the production of Soul Crooners, Featuring Sistas in the Name of Soul. He has a featured role in Playing Through, a new movie about groundbreaking Black golf champion Ann Gregory. In 2014, Michael was awarded a prestigious John Ringling Towers Fund grant in the performing arts category by the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. In January 2019 he was honored with an Impact Award from Visible Men Academy in the Arts category. The awards "shine a light on visible men...who mentor, educate and inspire underserved boys in our community."



WARREN G. NOLAN, JR.\* (Nathan Detroit) made his WBTT debut last season in *Eubie!*. He is happy to be returning to our stage in *Guys and Dolls*. A native of San Diego, CA, Warren is a recent transplant to

New York City. His favorite roles include Collins in *RENT* (National Tour), Delray in *Memphis*, Mister in *The Color Purple*, Walter Lee in *Raisin*, Curtis in *Sister Act*, King Triton in *The Little Mermaid* and Scar at Hong Kong Disneyland. "Thanks to Dave at The Daniel Hoff Agency, Tony for walking with me (143) and to Mom & Dad for encouraging me in this journey!"



CARVAS PICKENS (Big Jule) is a native of St. Louis. He now resides in Las Vegas, where he is pursuing his artistic dreams of acting and singing. He is ecstatic to be back with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for

the fourth time. You may have seen him in WBTT's Your Arms Too Short to Box with God, The Amen Corner or in Joel P. E. King's Real Life (Tez/Raheem/Detective 1) when WBTT presented the play in 2018 as part of its New Playwrights Series. Carvas has studied theatre performance since 6th grade. He attended visual and performing arts schools through 12th grade, then took his skills to Southeast Missouri State University. He has earned rave reviews for his role as John the Baptist/Judas in the production of Something Like...Godspell. Some of his theatrical credits include The Wiz, Tangled, Chasing Waterfalls, Dreamgirls, Little Shop of Horrors, The Music Man, High School Musical, Issues of Love, Of His & Hers, and Voices: Sounds of America. He would like to leave you with these encouraging words: "Life is about Place and Position; God will always Position you to be in the right Place to be successful."



LEON S. PITTS\* (Nicely Nicely) is a longtime WBTT troupe member. He has performed in several of its productions, including Joyful! Joyful!, Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Soul Man, The Wiz (Tin Man),

Hot Mikado, Soul Crooners, Love Sung in the Key of Aretha and The Fabulous 5. In August 2022 he appeared in WBTT's production of Soul Crooners, Featuring Sistas in the Name of Soul at the National Black Theatre Festival. Leon has danced in and choreographed many local shows and concerts, and spent the summer of 2005 in Tucson, Ariz., and Coral Springs, Fla., where he appeared in Five Guys Named Moe (as No Moe).



AARON POTTENGER\*
(Harry the Horse) is so excited and grateful to make his WBTT stage debut! Recent regional credits include: Tenorio in Man Of La Mancha, King Lapis in Sleeping Beauty,

Inspector Lestrade in Sherlock Holmes, El Gallo in The Fantasticks, Chef Louis in The Little Mermaid, and Lo in Grumpy Old Men. Without the faithfulness of God none of this would be possible for Aaron. Special thanks to his Mother, Sister, Family and best friends for their never ending love and support. This show is dedicated to you Gramps! Love you forever! IG: ImAaronPottenger #achievingaaronsdream



## THOMAS-MATTHEW ELIJAH SHANDS

(Rusty Charlie/Dance Ensemble) 25, also known as Tommé, is an independent music artist and musical theatre artist based in New York. Thomas-Matthew is

thrilled to envelop and dedicate himself to the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Recent roles include Booker T. Washington (understudy) in *Ragtime* at the Norshor Theatre and Fred Hammond/Ensemble in *A Soulful Christmas* at the Zeiders American Dream Theatre. Thomas-Matthew, or Tommé, has an upcoming EP dropping December 9, 2022 and singles to be announced, as well as a 45 minute set at The Delancey in NYC on December 2nd; with a portion of proceeds donated to local drug rehab services. You can follow and support him on all social platforms @ontommemusic.



#### JANESIA SHANAE

(Hot Box Girl/Dance Ensemble) is a native to Tampa, Florida and a multi-talented artist with an infinite love for the arts. Under her alias Jai Shanae, Janesia's experiences

auditioning for reality competitions such as America's Got Talent, American Idol, and The Voice, has advanced her ability to hold a boldness in front of audiences of any size and of all demographics. Jai's most recent work includes The Color Purple, directed by Erica Sutherlin. As a member of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe under founder and director, Nate Jacobs, Jai has become Tammi Terrell in Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul, Hot Box Girl in Guys & Dolls, various roles in Little Shop of Horrors, and opened for Chester Gregory in his Jackie Wilson Story. Jai also performed the role of a Hunnie in Jelly's Last Jam at the National Black Theatre Festival, in addition to starring in the short film, Killer Date Night. Previously majoring in Chorus, Creative Writing, and Musical Theater during her high school years at Howard W. Blake, Janesia Shanae wishes to reach levels in her career that will allow her a platform to provide a safe, artistic space for battered women and children, and put an end to human-trafficking. "I am black. I am woman. I am a survivor.'



JACOB SMITH (Arvide Abernathy) was born in Philadelphia, PA, and raised from the age of nine in Tampa, FL. Jacob is a Marine Corps veteran and has a degree in Education. He currently works for Frontier

Communications and has been with the company for 25 years. He realized his passion for singing and began his journey into singing and performing later in life. Jacob is a baritone/bass vocalist in his debut with WBTT. Jacob has studied and performed with Opera Tampa in various productions. He is motivated and eager to immerse into future opportunities to grow and evolve as an artist.



#### CIARRA STROUD

(Hot Box Girl/Dance Ensemble) is so excited to be joining the company of *Guys and Dolls*. A recent graduate of the University of California, Irvine with a BFA in Music Theatre,

some of her past credits include The Witch in *Into the Woods*, (Myers Dinner Theatre) Ericka Boafo in *School Girls*, or, the African Mean Girls Play, (Hangar Theatre Company), Mimi in RENT, (CYC) Catherine in *Pippin* and Armelia in Ain't Misbehavin' (Timber Lake Playhouse). Ciarra would like to give special thanks to her father and grandmothers for all

their love and support, to Roy for bringing so much laughter to her life, and to her mother, who is always in her heart.



NATE JACOBS is Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's Founder & Artistic Director. He is a driving force in Florida's theatre scene. A graduate of Florida A&M University, Nate founded Westcoast Black

Theatre Troupe in 1999. He has written, composed, directed and performed in many shows, as an actor, singer, dancer and comedian. He works extensively in the community, training and mentoring youth in the performing arts. As a result of his outstanding contributions to young people, the Sarasota County Branch NAACP Youth Council recognized Nate as one of its 2012 Men of Valor. In the spring of 2013, he was inducted into the Community Video Archives Hall of Fame for his significant contributions to the arts and education. In 2015, Nate was recognized as a Champion of Diversity for the arts during the Biz(941) and La Guia magazines' Unity Awards Luncheon, and was honored with the prestigious Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award during the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., "for his contributions to Black theatre specifically and American theatre in general." In 2017, Goodwill Manasota named him a Community Ambassador of the Year. In 2018, the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County honored Nate with the Arts Leadership Award for Artistic Achievement. In August 2022 he brought Soul Crooners, Featuring Sistas in the Name of Soul to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. - WBTT's fifth appearance there. In 2021 Nate received the Perfect Pitch Award from Key Chorale, which recognized him as a driving force in the arts and for his collaborations with other arts organizations, including American Roots: The Gospel Experience, a series of concert performances with WBTT performers and Key Chorale presented in three area churches in the fall of 2019.



JIM WEAVER\*\*
(Director) is thrilled
to be WBTT'S new
Education Director and
Artistic Associate. A
longtime WBTT guest
director, Jim helped
celebrate the opening of
the Donelly Theatre in

2020 as the director and choreographer of Caroline, or Change. Jim's previous work for WBTT includes productions of Raisin, In the Heights, Spunk, Purlie, Jitney, and the award-winning A Raisin in the Sun, among others. A critically acclaimed mounting of Next to Normal won Jim the 2018 Cleveland Critics Circle Award as Best Director of a Musical. Other regional productions include Ragtime, Working, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Five Guys Named Moe, Guys And Dolls, Once On This Island, Saturday Night, Ain't Misbehavin', The Rocky Horror Picture Show and several others; including award-winning productions of Floyd Collins and Legally Blonde. Jim holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting; before joining the WBTT staff he was the theatre department director for Kent State University at Stark in Ohio. His work has been seen at New York's Lincoln Center, The American Stage Company, Bay Street Theatre and many others. Internationally, his work has been presented in The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France and Austria. In addition to his work as a director and choreographer, Jim is an actor and singer who has performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, regionally, and across Europe. He has been seen on television and in films. He can also be heard on several cast recordings and voiceovers. Jim is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. More information is available at jimweaver.biz.

#### CHRISTOPHER JORDAN

(Music Director) After 20 years of performance and a two-year Nautical Tour with the Broadway show After Midnight (2016-2018), Christopher has enjoyed a career as an IC Musician in

Seattle, Wa. There he performs solo shows blending across all genres of music. Christopher has also appeared as



<sup>\*\*</sup>The Director is a member of the Stage Directors And Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

an Orchestral soloist, recitalist and has shared the stage with the likes of Brenda Braxton, Sharron Wilkins, Brian Davis and Darryl Jovan. He graduated from Oberlin Conservatory, 2005.

#### MONESSA

SALLEY (Assistant Choreographer) South Carolina native, Monessa Salley, is in her 4th season professionally dancing, performing, teaching, and serving as Production Lead with



Sarasota Contemporary Dance Company. She is also an adjunct dance educator for the Booker High School Dance Dept. and serves as a teaching artist for several arts organizations including. The Van Wezel Performing Art Hall, Wholehearted Education, Embracing Our Differences, Suncoast Black Arts Collaborative, and New College of Florida. She holds a B.A. in Dance Performance from Winthrop University and an M.Ed. in Divergent Learning from Columbia College. After continued education and serving as a certified dance educator for twelve years in SC, she went on to pursue her MFA in Dance Performance and New Media at New York University's Tisch School of Arts. Throughout her career, she has performed with several professional dance companies, presented choreographic works, and served as artistic director for various events. Having a colorful background in musical theater, as a performer and choreographer, Salley is thrilled to be serving as assistant choreographer with WBTT for this season's production of Guys & Dolls. Salley has been dancing since the age of three and enjoys sharing her passion for the craft with all ages and enhancing community relations through the arts.

ANNETTE BREAZEALE (Properties Designer) is WBTT's Properties Artisan Manager. She has designed props for area stages including Banyan Theatre Company and the FSU Conservatory at the Asolo Theatre. In addition, she has worked as art director and production designer for national and international feature films and music videos. She would like to thank Nate Jacobs for the opportunity to work with such a talented and inspirational group of theatre artists.

DONNA & MARK BUCKALTER (Set Designers) are a husband-and-wife creative team. Since moving from New York to Sarasota in 2003, they have been working as set designers/scenic artists at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Venice Theatre, the Players Centre for Performing Arts, Manatee Performing Arts Center and the Sarasota Opera. Their favorite WBTT shows include Little Shop of Horrors, The Cotton Club, The Wiz and The Color Purple. They look forward to working on more WBTT productions.

DARCI COLLINS (Costume Designer) was born and raised in Minnesota, where she learned how to sew from her mother. Darci has a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design, with a minor in Costume Construction. Her heart has always been in the theatre. She worked as a seamstress for theatres in Minnesota and Massachusetts. Since moving to Florida five years ago, she has worked in Sarasota theatres as a seamstress. Darci is very happy to be working for Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe in a position she loves.

**DOMINIQUE FREEMAN** (Wig Designer) Creative, versatile, and passionate about her craft, Dominique Freeman has been able to establish herself as a successful stylist over the past 13 years. She received her education from the world-renowned Aveda Institute. Her passion for her craft and clients is what separates her from others. After spending years perfecting her craft, Dominique is now branching into the entertainment world.

JUANITA MUNFORD\* (Production Stage Manager) is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. She has extensive experience as a stage manager. A native of Manchester, N.H., Juanita attended St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt. After working in St. Michael's Playhouse, she moved to Sarasota in 1983 and became the stage manager for more than 90 shows at the Asolo Repertory Theatre. Juanita's first WBTT show as stage manager was Marvin Gaye: The Man and His Music in 2011 and she has served in that role ever since. She loves working with Nate Jacobs and all the amazing people at WBTT.

MICHAEL PASQUINI (Lighting Designer) most recently lit the Stage of Discovery production of We Dream for WBTT as well as last season's From Birmingham to Broadway, Float Like a Butterfly, as well as Joyful! Joyful! and Eubie! Other recent designs include How to Succeed... for Manatee Players and the Ukraine Ballet Benefit in Orlando. This past spring, Michael was the Assistant Lighting Designer for Asolo Rep's productions of Hood and Knoxville. In addition to his design work, Michael is the Head Electrician and Assistant Lighting Designer for the Sarasota Opera and serves as the Treasurer for Local 412 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

**ALEX PINCHIN** (Video Projections Designer) Alex Pinchin is a multimedia designer based out of Sarasota. Alex earned his BA in Digital Arts and Sciences with a minor in Lighting Design from the University of Florida in 2016. He has been working in the entertainment industry for over 15 years in a variety of capacities including light, sound, and projection design in several venues across the country. He is currently the Technical Supervisor for Urbanite Theatre and has been designing with the FSU/ Asolo Conservatory since their 2017-2018 season. He is excited to be working with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe in his first design with them.

TRAVIS RAY\* (Assistant Stage Manager) is WBTT's Associate Managing Director. He earned a BA in theatre performance from Alabama State University, one of the nation's oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He continued his professional actor training at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film/Nebraska Repertory Theatre at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also holds an MFA in theatre management/ arts administration from the University of Alabama. Travis has worked with the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts, the King Tut Exhibit, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and Tyler Perry Studios. In August 2021 he conducted a WBTT Master Class, Who is August Wilson?,

exploring the work of the renowned playwright. He recently participated in Gulf Coast Community Foundation's Gulf Coast Board Institute, receiving high-level governance training. Travis is the owner of handcrafted bow tie and accessory brand, Dapper Bowtique®. Follow his brand on Clubhouse, Facebook, and Instagram by searching "@dapperbowtique."

PATRICK RUSSINI (Sound Designer) has worked as a professional sound designer, audio technician and sound engineer since 2012. His audio artistry has showcased the signature sound of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe shows since he joined the staff in 2016 as Sound Engineer; he was recently named Resident Sound Designer for the company. Patrick has traveled three times with WBTT Founder and Artistic Director Nate Jacobs, other troupe performers and production staff to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., ran sound for WBTT's '70s Soul Party at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, and worked with rock legend Alice Cooper, blues/gospel/rock singer/songwriter guitarist Jonny Lang, and many other artists. Patrick is happy to be part of the WBTT team.

**KEVIN WHITE** (Production Manager) Prior to moving to Sarasota in May 2021, Kevin was working as a Theatre Artist in the Philadelphia area for over a decade. Due to Covid-19 layoffs, Kevin found himself moving down to Sarasota to work at Florida Studio Theatre as their Company Manager. Kevin has loved the arts scene here in Sarasota and is ecstatic to be back working in Theatre Production at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe! A graduate of DeSales University (2015) and the Arden Professional Apprenticeship Program (23rd class), he has worked on production, education, and artistic projects with a wide range of Philadelphia professional theatre companies. In addition to arts administration and theatrical production experience, Kevin is an actor, director, producer, and comedian. Outside of theatre you can find him cooking, biking, playing video games, and running the occasional 5k. Much love to Tori, Chloe, and family — chosen and otherwise!



#### **ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards.

Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production.

AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit actorsequity.org.



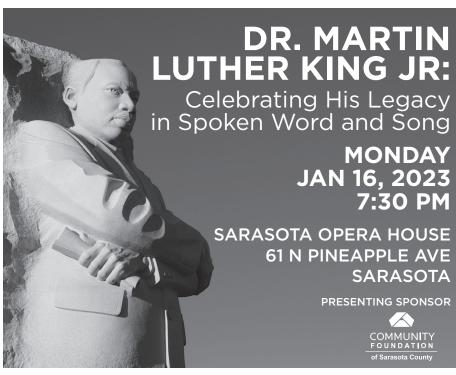
#### THE FRIENDSHIP TRAIN

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe is pleased to recognize our legacy donors as our "Friendship Train." These donors have indicated in writing that WBTT is included in their estate plans. We are so grateful to them for ensuring that WBTT will touch the lives of young artists, students and patrons long into the future.

If you would like to consider jumping on board, contact Debra Flynt-Garrett, Development Director, at 941-404-7755.

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#### **OUR MISSION**

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe was founded in December 1999 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to produce professional theatre that promotes and celebrates African American history and experience, engages a broad base of patrons and audiences, supports the development of a dynamic group of aspiring artists and builds self-esteem in youth of color.

Tax-deductible gifts from generous individuals, businesses, and foundations underwrite WBTT's annual operating budget. Your support helps to keep tickets affordable and provides funds to mentor new local talent and to develop high-quality productions. In addition, your gifts allow us to offer theatre experiences to an underserved population.

Thank you!

The Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe of Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Federal Tax ID# 65-1040662. "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE." REGISTRATION NO. CHI7803



#### **WBTT THEATRE**

1012 N. Orange Ave. Sarasota, Florida 34236 Visit us online at: WESTCOASTBLACKTHEATRE.ORG 941-366-1505

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