

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

JOYFUL! JOYFUL!

CREATED AND ADAPTED BY NATE JACOBS

Costume Designer
Darci Collins

Wig Designer
Dominique Freeman

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Scenic Designers
Donna and Mark Buckalter

Production Manager
Kevin White

Production Stage Manager
Jennifer Woodford*

Assistant Stage Manager
KaCie Ley*

Lighting Designer
Michael Pasquini

Sound Designer
Patrick Russini

Projections Designer
Austin Jacobs

Music Director
Matthew McKinnon

Choreographer
Donald Frison

Director
Nate Jacobs

November 29-December 30, 2023



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. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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

CAST

Isaiah Belt
Ariel Blue
Jazzmin Carson
Mandi Jo John*
Delores McKenzie
Michael Mejia-Mendez*
Charlie “CJ” Melton
Raleigh Mosely II
Amber Myers
Maicy Powell
Nate Summers*
Rickey Tedesco
Canela Vasquez
Sammy Waite
Stephanie Zandra*

**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/ Main Keys **Matthew McKinnon**
Aux Keys.....**Charlotte Corporan**
Guitar **Brad Foutch**
Bass**Marvin Hendon**
Drums **Caleb Miller**

SPECIAL THANKS

Juanita Munford—Dramaturg
Erne M.—Scenic Artist
Ralph Nurmela
Fabulous Finds benefitting The Pines of Sarasota

WBTT TEAM

Founder & Artistic Director	Nate Jacobs
Executive Director	Julie Leach
House Associates	Stefan Abner, Marta McKinnon, Zion Thompson
Education and Outreach Associate	Peterly Jean Baptiste
Development Associate.....	Regina Belvin
Shop Foreman.....	Roland Black
Artist Relations Associate/Assistant Box Office Manager	Ariel Blue
Properties Artisan Manager	Annette Breazeale
Stage Hand.....	Kiamani Canady
Resident Seamstress.....	Darci Collins
Properties Intern.....	Jayde Dauley
Development Director	Debra Flynt-Garrett
Resident Choreographer	Donald Frison
Receptionist/Box Office Associate	Arnette German
Finance Manager	Robert Grant
Marketing & Communications Director	Beth Graves
Production Assistant	Tianna Harris
Sound Assistant.....	Austin Jacobs
Resident Sound Engineer	Alexander Judd
Custodian	Gerald Law
Box Office Associate	Margaret Lindsey
Resident Music Director	Matthew McKinnon
House Associate/Stage Hand	Mydra McKinnon
House Manager.....	Myllanna McKinnon
Box Office Manager.....	Eleanor Miller
Production Stage Manager	Juanita Munford
Lead Stage Hand.....	Amber Myers
Resident Lighting Designer.....	Michael Pasquini
Wardrobe Manager.....	Adrienne Pitts
Marketing Associate.....	Maicy Powell
Assistant to Seamstress	Pat Primavera
Resident Sound Designer	Patrick Russini
Resident Guest Director	Chuck Smith
Education Director & Artistic Associate.....	Jim Weaver
Production Manager	Kevin White
Asst to the Artistic Director/Casting Coordinator	Donovan Whitney
Photography	Sorcha Augustine
Media Relations.....	Sharon Kunkel, Wordslinger Marketing & PR
Graphic Design.....	Paula Murray, Artefact Design
Videography.....	Bill Wagy/Bill Wagy Productions

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Merry Christmas and happy holidays! When I created *Joyful! Joyful!* two years ago, we had just emerged from a global pandemic. I wanted to create something that would plug us back into life and inspire hope. This holiday musical is filled with uplifting and powerful gospel, soul, and pop music that I strategically chose to ignite the spirit of joy and put a smile on your face. The show features music from iconic artists such as The Staple Singers, Earth, Wind & Fire, and Quincy Jones.

Sit back as we take you on a joyful ride, which is intended to put us all in the attitude of gratitude and remind us all to celebrate the gift of life. We are the fortunate ones who have survived another year and made it to another holiday season. So, rejoice and be glad!

On behalf of myself, Julie Leach, and the entire WBTT family, we cheerfully "present" to you our community Christmas card and wish you a blessed, prosperous, and healthy holiday season and New Year!

—Nate Jacobs

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2023-2024 SEASON SPONSORS

Thank you to our family of donors for supporting WBTT's 2023-2024 Season.
Includes Visionary Circle Donors, Production Sponsors, and Event Sponsors

Contributions received between September 21, 2023 and November 20, 2023 (Donors who contributed between January 1, 2023 and September 20, 2023 are listed in our season playbill.)

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of Kitty Cranor's Birthday	Theron Palmer
Kathleen Cuvillo	Carol Papish
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Hillary Dunson	Robert & Sandra Phelps
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Anne Heyns* in Honor	Ronald & Mary Shapiro*
of Julie Leach's Birthday	Deborah Shepperd-Brooks
Deborah Hill	Eric Skoog
Ralph Hughes	Barbara Squadere
Roxie Jerde*	Audrey Stewart
William Kimbell Jr.	Jeanne Tee
Jim Kimberly	Hopeton Walker
Barbara Kupferberg	Irv Weiser
Ron Kushner	Lynn Wright
Laurie Lachowitz	Chet Zoltak
Joshua Leach* in Honor	
of Julie Leach's Birthday	



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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Jeffrey Smith & Deborah Mix

Mary Lou Webster

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Hallelujah Chorus (<i>G.F. Handel</i>)	Ensemble
Rejoice (<i>R. Smallwood</i>)	Ensemble
Happy Seasons.....	Michael, Nate, Raleigh, Rickey (<i>V. White, P. Bailey, L. Dunn, M. White, A. McKay</i>)
African Noel (<i>A. Thomas</i>)	Female Ensemble
Carol of The Bells (<i>M. Leontovich, P. Wilhousky</i>)	Male Ensemble
The Last Month of The Year	CJ, Amber, Jazzmin, and Maicy (<i>V. Hall, R.P. Tartt, A. Lomax</i>)
African Drummer Boy	Michael and Ensemble (<i>K. Davis, H. Onarati, H. Simeone</i>)
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (<i>Traditional</i>)	Maicy
When A Child is Born (<i>C. Damimicco, F. Jay</i>)....	Delores, Raleigh, Ensemble
Soulful Noel (<i>Variation of The First Noel, Traditional</i>) ...	Raleigh, Ensemble
Up on the Housetop.....	Sammy and Male Ensemble (<i>B. Hanby, J. Whitman</i>)
Joy (Unspeakable)	Ensemble (<i>E. Williams, L. George, Pharrell Williams</i>)

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Enjoy Yourself (<i>K. Gamble, L. Huff</i>)	Rickey, Michael and Male Ensemble
Joy to the World (<i>L. Mason, I. Watts</i>)	Ensemble
Oh Holy Night (<i>A. Adam, J.S. Dwight</i>).....	Stephanie
Everyone's a Kid at Christmas Time (<i>S. Wonder</i>)	Isaiah
SKIT	Stephanie, Canela, Delores, Amber, Jazzmin, Mandi Jo
Black Christmas (<i>P. Staples</i>).....	Female Ensemble
One Little Christmas Tree (<i>S. Wonder</i>)	Sammy
Who Took the Merry Out of Christmas? (<i>D. Parker</i>)	Ensemble
Celebrate the Holydays.....	Female Ensemble (<i>Sweet Honey in the Rock, Sultans of String</i>)
My Christmas Prayer	Nate, Mandi Jo (<i>B. Winans, G. Bieck, E. Hayes</i>)
Joyful, Joyful (<i>L.V. Beethoven, H. Van Dyke</i>).....	Ensemble

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CAST AND CREATIVE



NATE JACOBS*

(Founder/Artistic Director) 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 Guía* 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. He was recently featured in The New York Times, highlighting his mentorship and leadership, as well as WBTT's community outreach.



DONALD FRISON

(Choreographer) – An accomplished choreographer, dancer and singer for over 30 years, Donald has enjoyed great success. He was a dancer for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies Dance

Team and a five-time champion on the syndicated talent competition television show *Star Search* with Ed McMahon. His theatre credits as a performer include *Dreamgirls*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Cats*, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* and *The Music Man*. For WBTT he choreographed *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God* in 2020, among many other shows throughout several seasons. "As WBTT's Resident Choreographer I strive to keep the vision growing," Donald says. "I've been fortunate to have had my work showcased at the National Black Theatre Festival with two shows, *How I Got Over* and *Soul Man*. I am so proud and honored to be part of such an amazing company with a wonderful vision. Thank you, Nate, cast and creative and Julie, for trusting me and my gift. Thank you to the staff and trustees for all your love and support. I thank God for blessing me with a gift to give to the world. May God bless all of you!"



MATTHEW MCKINNON

(Music Director) – Matthew is proud to be on the WBTT team as its resident music director. Being no stranger to the theater scene, Matthew has had the opportunity to music direct several

productions including *Broadway in Black*, which he won the Broadway World Award for Best Music Direction, *Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue*, *Langston Hughes' Black Nativity*, WBTT's Stage of Discovery production *We Dream, Joyfull, Joyfull*, and others. Matthew's love of music started as a child; he began studying the cello at the age of 5. He was accepted into Berklee College of Music and attended Florida A&M University for his B.A. in Music Education with emphasis in choral conducting. Matthew has been a composer, arranger, and director for many solo artists, groups, bands, and gospel choirs. He has performed and shared the stage with great entertainers such as Melba Moore, Kirk Franklin, James Ingram,

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

CAST AND CREATIVE

Chester Gregory, and others. Matthew is also an award-nominated artist, under the name Matt Mykel; his music is available on all digital platforms. He is a proud husband and married to his lovely wife, Nilaja, who he calls Sunny.



ISAIAH BELT (Ensemble) was recently featured in the 2023 Stage of Discovery production of *Fame: The Musical*. Isaiah has been a member of Stage of Discovery since 2020. He was also a part of the world debut

holiday show *Joyful! Joyful!* and is excited to be back again this holiday season! With a dual passion for athletics and the arts, outside of the theatre Isaiah is a popular athlete at Riverview High School. Nate Jacobs was impressed with his talent and enthusiasm and cast him in this show. He is happy to be celebrating the holiday season with his WBTT family.



ARIEL BLUE (Ensemble), a well-known member of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, was recently featured in *Motherless* in New York and at WBTT. She was also featured in *The Know Women* (Sarasota) magazine and

was last seen in WBTT's *Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue*. Her many appearances on the WBTT stage include *Black Nativity*, *Sistas in the Name of Soul*, *A Motown Christmas*, *The Amen Corner*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, and *Soul Man*. She has produced two of her own one-woman shows, most recently, *The Bluelight Special*. Ariel has worked consistently with WBTT since her breakout role in *Ain't Misbehavin'* in 2010. Other memorable shows include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Dreamgirls*, *Avenue Q*, *The Wiz*, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, *All Shook Up*, *Disenchanted*, *Love Sung in the Key of Aretha*, and *Beehive: The Musical*. Ariel has been fortunate to perform at the National Black Theatre Festival with WBTT in 3 productions: *How I Got Over* (2017), *Soul Man* (2019), *Light Up The Night* (2022). She has performed as a vocalist in the Connelli Circus in Switzerland and with the Florida Studio Theatre Improv. Ariel was also a contributing performer for the Sarasota-Manatee community's Suffragist

Project in 2020. She is a graduate of Stetson University with a major in communications and a minor in theatre. In addition to performing, Ariel is an aunt to two wonderful humans: Hovan & Hadara. www.simplyarielblue.com/
IG: @simplyarielblue.



JAZZMIN CARSON

(Ensemble) is delighted to be in her fourth production at Westcoast Black Theater Troupe! Her credits include performances such as Erzulie, the Goddess of Love in *Once on*

This Island, Ensemble in *Dreamgirls*, and WBTT's premiere of *Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue*, portraying the role of Henrietta Hash. A graduate of Alabama State University's Bachelor of Arts program, Jazzmin's collegiate show credits include August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* and Dominique Morriseau's *Paradise Blue*, where her love for theatre bloomed into what is now her dream and passion. She is a recipient of the Irene Ryan National Acting Scholarship and The College of Fellows Jane Alexander Acting Award, presented by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Jazzmin is thrilled to share the stage with WBTT legends and be a part of this incredible show!



MANDI JO JOHN*

(Ensemble) – Mandi Jo John is pleased to be returning to WBTT for her second holiday season! Mandi Jo is an actor and singer based out of Orlando.

The Florida native / toddler mom / travel enthusiast was last seen as Diana in *Next To Normal* at New Generation Theatrical. MJ would like to thank her husband Alec for his unwavering love - te iubesc



DELORES MCKENZIE

(Ensemble) is a singer, actress, and voice over artist. She was born and raised in Sarasota. She was a principal production singer for Norwegian Cruise Lines for seven years, traveling

CAST AND CREATIVE

to ports from Puerto Rico to Israel. She was recently chosen to be the voice of Royer Studios Anti-Tobacco and Vaping campaign against teen tobacco use. Just to name a few of her theatre credits, Delores has played Sarah in *Ragtime*, Bess in *Porgy and Bess*, and Tuptim in *The King and I*. She appeared previously at WBTT in *Eubie*, *Broadway in Black*, and *Sistas in The Name of Soul*. Delores is thrilled to be working with WBTT again! You can follow her on instagram @Dee_tour.



MICHAEL MEJIA-MENDEZ* (Ensemble) is in his 13th season with WBTT. He recently starred in the limited engagement, sold-out show, *Harry Belafonte* as a tribute to the singer and activist. 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*. In 2019 he appeared in WBTT's production of *Soul Man* at the National Black Theatre Festival. He has a featured role in *Playing Through*, a 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."



CHARLIE "CJ" MELTON (Ensemble) is a 2020 graduate of Manatee High School. He first appeared on WBTT's stage in Sheldon Rhoden's 2014 Young Artist Program. He has also appeared in *Once*

on *This Island*, *Dreamgirls*, *Black Nativity*, *Joyful! Joyful!*, and *Your Arms Too Short*

to *Box with God*. Charlie was the 2013 winner of the Singers & Musicians Arts Conference in Tampa, sponsored by the recording artist Dorinda Clark Cole. Publicly ministering in song since the age of 10, Charlie has traveled throughout Florida singing with various church and nonsectarian groups. He has also won many first-place awards from the 2015 Tampa Bay Gospel Awards and the Greatness Beyond Measure Idol Talent Showcase. He released his first single "All to You" in 2018 and one day hopes to accomplish his dreams of continuing his acting career and becoming a national gospel music recording artist.



RALEIGH MOSELY II (Ensemble) was last featured on WBTT's stage in his two sold out performances for his Young Artist Showcase titled *titanium: a soul experience*. Mosely was also seen in *Dreamgirls*

as Jimmy "Thunder" Early and in the summer of 2022 traveled to North Carolina for WBTT's staging of *Soul Crooners featuring Sistas in The Name of Soul* at the National Black Theatre Festival. Making his WBTT debut in the summer 2017 production of *Broadway in Black*, Raleigh has appeared in two productions each season since, including *Black Nativity*, *Joyful! Joyful!*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, *In the Heights*, and *A Motown Christmas* among other shows. Born and raised in Miami, he earned his BFA in musical theatre from the University of Central Florida. His other theatre credits include *In the Heights* (Orlando Shakes, Theater West End), *Violet* (Garden Theatre), *Ragtime* (Titusville Playhouse), *Broadbend*, Arkansas (Studio Theatre at TDS), *Oklahoma* (Gulf Coast Symphony) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Raleigh has music available for streaming, download, and purchase on all corresponding platforms. "God is Love. Love is wealth."



AMBER MYERS (Ensemble) is a Sarasota/Bradenton native and no stranger to the stage. The 28-year-old actress/singer was bitten by the stage bug at 5 years old.

CAST AND CREATIVE

She received training from Nate Jacobs, Florida Studio Theater, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, and State College of Florida. She has been in productions such as *Black Nativity*, and *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God* with WBTT and *West Side Story* as Rosalia at State College of Florida. She was one of four featured artists for the Sarasota Pops Orchestra concert, "Spirit of America."



MAICY POWELL

(Ensemble) is a singer/actress born and raised in Sarasota, Fla. She has been a member of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe since 2016, when she began as a student in the Stage of Discovery

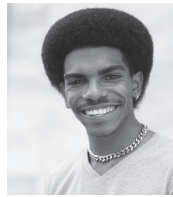
Program until 2018. She appeared in her own Young Artist Showcase at WBTT in 2019, *The Kid is Alright*. She has performed in a number of productions and events, and was recently seen in *Once on This Island*, *Dreamgirls*, and as Mary in WBTT's holiday show *Black Nativity*. Maicy attended Booker High School where she studied theatre and music in their Visual Performing Arts program. She is trained in a variety of musical genres including opera and classical. Maicy is a recent graduate from Howard University with a Business in Administration Degree in Management and a minor in Film and Television.



NATE SUMMERS*

(Ensemble) from Cleveland, Ohio, earned his degree at Bowling Green State University and specialized in Acting and Directing on stage. He is most known for his work in *Motown: The*

Musical National Tour (Swing) and on Norwegian Cruise Lines (Lead Soloist). Other theatre credits include *Once on This Island* (Agwe), *Aida* (Radames), *Dreamgirls* (Curtis), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *Pippin* (Pippin), *Songs for a New World* (Man 1), *Choir Boy* (Junior), *Radio Golf* (Roosevelt Hicks) and *The Boys in the Band* (Bernard). His film credits include *Finding Fish*, directed by Denzel Washington. Nate is beyond grateful to join the WBTT family this year and thoroughly hopes you enjoy the wonderful production of *Joyful! Joyful!*.



RICKEY TEDESCO

(Ensemble) last appeared on WBTT's stage in *Dreamgirls*. He has had lead roles in musicals through State College of Florida. He is a 24-year-old aspiring entertainer. Rickey has

played trumpet and French horn since high school, continuing French horn through State College of Florida as well as gaining skills on the piano, in dance, and singing (done inside and outside of college). After graduating from the State College of Florida, Rickey plans to pursue cruise ship performing and gigging for quality events. He plans to receive a bachelor's degree in either Musical Theater or Music production while pursuing a dream to make it to Broadway.



CANELA VASQUEZ

(Ensemble) was born in Sarasota Florida and is currently enrolled at the University of South Florida pursuing a degree in Digital Communications and Journalism. Canela made

her WBTT debut seven years ago through the Stage of Discovery summer program and continues to perform at the theatre as an alumna. Some of her WBTT credits are the Stage of Discovery productions *Fame* and *Broadway in Black Jr.*, and main stage shows *Once on This Island* and the world debut of *Joyful! Joyful!*. Canela has also been seen in productions at FST, Urbanite Theatre, and the Hermitage.



SAMMY WAITE

(Ensemble) is 15 years old; he is in the 10th grade at Southeast High School. He has been performing at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for five years, as well as singing at special events

throughout the community, representing WBTT at many venues. Sammy first appeared at WBTT in *Raisin* in 2018-2019; he participated in WBTT's Stage of Discovery Musical Theatre Intensive Program and its culminating productions for the last four years. Musical theater is the love of his life and he hopes to one day be on Broadway.

CAST AND CREATIVE



STEPHANIE ZANDRA* (Ensemble) – Stephanie is excited to be joining the Westcoast family once again during the holiday season. You've seen her on the WBTT stage in the 2022 production of *Black*

Nativity as well as *A Motown Christmas*, *Caroline, or Change* and *Sistas in the Name of Soul*. Stephanie is an Atlanta native with theatre credits that include: *Hair* (Serenbe Playhouse), *The Color Purple* (Actors Express), *9-5 the Musical* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), *Footloose* (Theatre Buford), *Once on This Island* and *Caroline, or Change* (Jennie T. Anderson Theatre). Stephanie recently returned from Europe after completing a cruise contract with Celebrity Cruises as a Specialty Production Singer.

ANNETTE BREAZEALE (Resident Property Artisan Manager) is WBTT's Resident Property 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.

DARCI COLLINS (Resident Seamstress) was born and raised in Minnesota. Darci has been working in the theatre industry for 29 years. This is her 5th season at WBTT. She has always known this is what she loves to do. Her passion has led her to work in theatres across the U.S. such as Asolo Repertory Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, and Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. Some of her favorite shows she has worked on include *Eubie!* (WBTT), *Dreamgirls* (WBTT), *My Fair Lady* (Chaska Valley Family Theatre), *Anything Goes* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatre), *Chicago* (Massasoit Community College), and *Cabaret* (Massasoit Community College). She was nominated for BroadwayWorld's Sarasota Award for Best Costume Design for her work on *Eubie!* and was recently nominated for WBTT's 2023 production of *Dreamgirls*. WBTT feels like her family, and she is happy to be an employee 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 14 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.

KACIE LEY* (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to return to Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Originally from Green Bay Wisconsin, she moved to the Sarasota area last year after graduating from St. Norbert College in Wisconsin. Her first show with WBTT was *Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue*. She would like to thank her mother Karleen for everything she has done to help her get where she is today. She would also like to thank the WBTT team for giving her the opportunity to join them again this year!

MICHAEL PASQUINI (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be back for WBTT's 24th season. Recent WBTT designs include *Once on This Island*, *Fame*, *Big Sexy: The Fats Waller Revue*; *Flyin' West*; *Black Nativity*; as well as *Guys and Dolls*. Other recent designs are *A Comedy of Tenors* (FST); *Ruthless! The Musical*; *The Graduate*; *Lateral Moves*; *8-Track: The Sound of the 70s in Concert*; and *Proof* (The Players Centre); *Next to Normal*; and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Manatee Players); *Expressions*; and *Tribute to Balanchine* (Sarasota Ballet). Michael is Head Electrician and Assistant Lighting Designer for Sarasota Opera and Treasurer for IATSE Local 412.

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 to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., ran sound for WBTT's *70's Soul Party* at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, and was named The

CAST AND CREATIVE

Best Sound Design of a Play or Musical for The 2022 BroadwayWorld Sarasota Awards. He's also personally worked with rock legend Alice Cooper, Blues/Gospel/Rock Singer/Songwriter guitarist Jonny Lang, and many other artists. Patrick is excited to be part of the WBTT team.

KEVIN WHITE (Production Manager)
– After a decade of working in the Philadelphia theatre community, Kevin moved to Sarasota in May of 2021. This is his second season with WBTT! A graduate of DeSales University (2015) and the Arden Professional Apprenticeship Program (2016), he has worked on production, education, and artistic projects with a wide range of theatres throughout the country. In addition to arts administration and theatrical production experience, Kevin is an actor, director, producer, and comedian and has produced a number of his own small shows & productions! Outside of his life in the theatre you can find Kevin on the beach, watching Eagles football, playing video games, or running the occasional 5k. Much love to Tori, Chloe, and family!

JENNIFER WOODFORD (Stage Manager)
– Jennifer earned a BFA in Technical Theatre and Design with a focus in Stage Management from Florida Southern College. She is also a Journeyman Level Certified Stage Technician. Jennifer finished her internship this spring at Florida Repertory Theatre in Ft. Myers, FL where she worked on *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Ring of Fire*. She also stage managed their 2022 and 2023 Summer Intensive. She is excited to have the opportunity to stage manage *Joyful!* here at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and work with all the amazing professionals. Miss Woodford resides in Sarasota and enjoys golfing and Taekwondo.

CAST AND CREATIVE



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.

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!

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