

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS

A SOLDIER'S PLAY

BY CHARLES FULLER

Costume Designer
Kenji Trujillo

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Scenic Designer
Roland Black

Production Manager
Kevin White

Production Stage Manager
Jynelly Rosario*

Assistant Stage Manager
Tianna Harris*

Lighting Designer
Michael Pasquini

Sound Designer
Patrick Russini

Projection Designer
Alex Pinchin

Director
Chuck Smith*

January 18–February 18, 2024

A Soldier's Play is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues.

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& 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.



* The Director is a member of the
Stage Directors and Choreographers
Society, a national theatrical labor union.



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

CAST

u/s Captain Taylor, Lieutenant Byrd, Captain Wilcox.....Larry Alexander*
Private First Class Peterson Darius Autry
Corporal Cobb/ u/s Captain Davenport.....Brian L. Boyd
Lieutenant Byrd Ben Brandt
Private SmallsPeterly Jean Baptiste
Captain DavenportMichael Mejia-Mendez*
Captain Wilcox..... Casey Murphy
Private CJ Memphis..... Leon Pitts II*
Sergeant Waters..... Patric Robinson*
Military Advisor/ u/s for all enlisted.....Jacob Smith
Private Wilkie.....Terry Spann
Captain TaylorEric Van Baars*
Private HensonJerald Wheat
Corporal Ellis.....Donovan Whitney*

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

Setting: The action takes place on an army base in Fort Neal, Louisiana in 1944 near the end of World War II. A black Sergeant has been murdered and Captain Davenport, a black officer and lawyer, is tasked with finding and charging the killer.

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

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

SPECIAL THANKS

Fabulous Finds benefitting The Pines of Sarasota
Rosemary & Thyme
Scenic Artist – Leya Black
Tiger Lily Floral

WBTT TEAM

Founder & Artistic Director.....	Nate Jacobs
Executive Director	Julie Leach
House Associates.....	Stefan Abner, 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 Hands.....	Kiamani Canady, Mydra McKinnon, Caleb Miller
Resident Seamstress.....	Darci Collins
Properties Intern.....	Jayde Dauley
Development Director.....	Debra Flynt-Garrett
Resident Choreographer	Donald Frison
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Sound Assistant.....	Austin Jacobs
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Custodian	Gerald Law
Box Office Associate	Margaret Lindsey
House Associates.....	Marta McKinnon, Mydra McKinnon
Resident Music Director	Matthew McKinnon
House Manager.....	Myllanna McKinnon
Box Office Manager.....	Eleanor Miller
Resident Stage Manager	Juanita Munford
Resident Lighting Designer.....	Michael Pasquini
Wardrobe Manager.....	Adrienne Pitts
Marketing Associate.....	Maicy Powell
Assistant to Seamstress	Pat Primavera
Resident Sound Designer	Patrick Russini
Resident 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 Wagyu/Bill Wagyu Productions

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Charles Fuller's play *A Soldier's Play* exposes us to individuals we seldom see on the theatre stage: the African American patriot. During World War II, Black Americans both volunteered and were drafted to serve in all branches of our then-segregated armed forces. While most were assigned to various rear support groups, they all longed for and some did experience combat on the war's front lines. They served on the beaches at Normandy, and Saipan. They flew and protected our bombers over Germany. And while they weren't always where they wanted to be, they were always where they needed to be. They answered the call!

— **Chuck Smith**

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Charles Fuller (b. March 5, 1939 – d. October 3, 2022) was an American playwright best known for his Pulitzer Prize winning drama *A Soldier's Play*. He attended Villanova University and joined the army in 1959. After leaving the army in 1962, he attended La Salle College, graduating in 1967. He co-founded the Afro-American Arts Theatre in 1967 in Philadelphia.

A Soldier's Play was published in 1981 and earned Fuller a number of awards, including a Tony award for Best Revival of a Play in 2020 when it debuted on Broadway. He also wrote the screenplay for the 1984 film that earned him an Academy Award nomination. He has written a number of plays centered around the experience of African American soldiers including *The Brownsville Raid* based on the actual events involving the dishonorable discharge of an entire Black U.S. Army regiment for inciting a riot in 1906. *A Soldier's Play* was the catalyst for a series of work based on African American soldiers during the Civil War and Reconstruction period called the *We Cycle*. It includes works such as *Sally* (1988), *Prince* (1988), *Jonquil* (1990), and *Burner's Frolic* (1990).

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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.



CHUCK SMITH*

(Director) is a Resident Director (a.k.a. resident snowbird) here at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. His WBTT credits include *Flyin' West*, *Knock Me A Kiss*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*,

The Piano Lesson, *The Mountaintop*, and *The Amen Corner*. In Chicago he is an associate member of the American Blues Theater Company, and a member of the Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees, as well as the Goodman Theatre's Resident Director. His Goodman credits include the world premieres of *By the Music of the Spheres*, *The Gift Horse*, and *Objects in the Mirror*; the Chicago premieres of *Pullman Porter Blues*, *Race*, *Having Our Say*, *The Good Negro*, *Proof*, *The Story*, and *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*. He directed James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner*, which transferred to Boston's Huntington Theatre Company, where it won the Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) Award for Best Direction. He also directed *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean*, *Two Trains Running* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, the 1993 to 1995 productions of *A Christmas Carol*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*, *Vivisections from a Blown Mind*, and *The Meeting*. He served as dramaturge for Goodman's 2003 world premiere production of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*. He directed the New York premiere of *Knock Me A Kiss*, receiving ADELCO awards for production and direction, and *The Hooch* for the New Federal Theatre. Regional credits include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Ensemble Theatre in Houston, the Robey Theatre Company in Los Angeles, the University of Illinois in Champaign, University of Wisconsin in Madison, and Fisk University in Nashville. At Columbia College Chicago he was facilitator of the Theodore Ward Prize playwriting contest for 20 years and editor of the contest anthologies *Seven Black Plays* and *Best Black Plays*. He won a Chicago Emmy Award as associate producer/theatrical director for the NBC teleplay *Crime of Innocence* and was theatrical director for

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+ The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

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the Emmy winning *Fast Break to Glory* and the Emmy-nominated *The Martin Luther King Suite*. He was a founding member of the Chicago Theatre Company, where he served as artistic director for four seasons and directed the Jeff-nominated *Suspenders* and the Jeff-winning musical *Po'.* Other Chicago area credits include the Victory Gardens Theater, Roosevelt University, DePaul University, Eclipse Theatre, ETA, Black Ensemble Theater, Northlight Theatre, MPAACT, Congo Square Theatre Company, The New Regal Theater, Kuumba Theatre Company, Fleetwood-Jordain Theatre, Pegasus Players, and the Timber Lake Playhouse. He is the proud recipient of the 1982 Paul Robeson Award and the 1997 Award of Merit presented by the Black Theater Alliance of Chicago. He is a 2003 inductee into the Chicago State University Gwendolyn Brooks Center's Literary Hall of Fame, and a 2001 Chicago Tribune Chicagoan of the Year. He has received lifetime achievement awards from The League of Chicago Theaters and the Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee. In 2019 he received an Honorary Ph.D. from his alma mater Governors State University.



LARRY ALEXANDER*
(u/s Captain Taylor, Lieutenant Byrd, Captain Wilcox) – Larry's credits include: Broadway; Marius (*Les Miserables*), Tony (*West Side Story*, European Tour), Opening Act for Liza Minnelli's

World Tour and Anatoly (*Chess*: The First National Tour). freeFall Theatre; Elwood (*Harvey*), Dale Harding (*One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*), Mickey (*The Normal Heart*), PoohBah (*The Mikado*), *Sondheim on Sondheim* and Ernst (*Cabaret*). For his work in *Cabaret* he won the Theatre Tampa Bay Award for Outstanding Featured Actor. He spent 17 seasons with TheatreZone Naples and his credits included Peter Allen (*The Boy From Oz*), Archie (*The Secret Garden*), Dan (*Next To Normal*), Robert (*Company*), Anatoly (*Chess*), and Robert (*The Bridges of Madison County*). He has also worked with American Stage as Father in *Ragtime*, and Harry in *Mamma Mia!* His most recent endeavor was writing and directing *Poirot Returns!* (World Premiere) which was presented at StageWorks. Larry is thrilled to be a part of the cast of *A Soldier's Play* and in the upcoming WBTT production of *Ruby*.



DARIUS AUTRY (Private First Class Peterson) is a Tampa native and feels honored to be playing the role of "Private First Class Peterson" in *A Soldier's Play*. He was last seen on stage as Muhammad

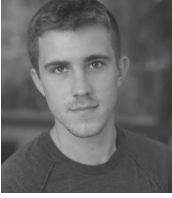
Ali in Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's one-man show, *Float Like A Butterfly*. In between his commitments to the theatre, Darius performs in independent films in front of the camera. He also has modeled and worked on commercials for ESPN, Eastbay, Champs, Bojangles, USA, and more. He has brought other roles to life in the theatre, such as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Lincoln in *Topdog/Underdog*, Martin in *Seminar*, and Woodson Bull III in *Third*. This is his second performance with us and we are excited to welcome back Darius to the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe family!



BRIAN L. BOYD
(Corporal Cobb/ u/s Captain Davenport) 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 WBTT Young Artist Program, *A Rhapsody Revelation* in 2019. His WBTT appearances include *Dreamgirls*, *Guys and Dolls*, *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.), *Dreamgirls* (Curtis Taylor Jr.), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Ken), and *Motones vs. Jerseys*. Brian's film work includes *Co-Pilot*, *Spare Me*, and *Bridge To The Other Side*, which you can find on Amazon Prime. Brian is the Co-Director of M.A.D. Music Acting Dance Inc. with fellow artist Brentney J., and is the artistic director of his own company, The Enigma Artistic Experience.

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BEN BRANDT

(Lieutenant Byrd) is from Gainesville, Florida, where he trained at the University of Florida's School of Theatre and Dance. He continued his training at Florida Studio Theatre (*Charlotte's*

Web, Network). *A Soldier's Play* marks his WBTT debut!



PETERLY JEAN

BAPTISTE (Private Smalls) WBTT's Education and Outreach associate, Peterly Jean Baptiste, is making his regional theatre debut as Private Anthony Smalls in WBTT's production

of *A Soldier's Play*. The Haitian-born actor studied at the Atlantic School of Acting in New York, as part of the Evening Conservatory, class of '21, and has since made Sarasota home. Original production credits include *The Annihilation of Je\$sie: An Anthology* by Hart Fargo, Dir. by Ryan Dobrin, *Ten Boys One Girl* by Michael Jacobs, Dir. by Nate Jacobs.



MICHAEL MEJIA-

MENDEZ* (Captain Davenport) is in his 13th season with WBTT. He recently starred in the limited engagement sold out show *Harry Belafonte*—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."



CASEY MURPHY

(Captain Wilcox) is thrilled to be on stage again at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. As an actor, he has worked in New York, regionally, and locally. Select theatres include Urbanite Theatre,

Florida Studio Theatre, Theatre Odyssey, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Cohoes Music Hall, and the Michigan Shakespeare Festival. When not on stage, he has worked in development for both Asolo Repertory Theatre and Sarasota Orchestra. Casey is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan.



LEON PITTS II*

(Private CJ Memphis) is a longtime WBTT troupe member. He has performed in several of its productions, including *Once on This Island*, *Big Sexy*, *The Fats Waller Revue*, *Guys and Dolls*,

Joyful! Joyfull!, *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).



PATRIC ROBINSON*

(Sergeant Waters) a native of Jacksonville, Fla., has been delighting audiences with his creations in various theatres in New York City, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Georgia. A few of his most notable

roles are: Walter Lee (*Raisin In The Sun*), Pseudelus (*A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*), Bynum (Joe

CAST AND CREATIVE

Turner's Come And Gone) *Gitlow* (*Purlie*), *Hoke* (*Driving Miss Daisy*), and *Wining Boy* (*The Piano Lesson*). WBTT's audiences may remember Robinson from *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *The Piano Lesson*. Patric is thrilled to be back in the house.



JACOB SMITH (Military Advisor/ u/s for all enlisted) was born in Philadelphia, PA and raised in Tampa, Florida. Jacob is a Marine Corps veteran and has a degree in Secondary Education. He worked

for Frontier Communications for 26 years and has recently retired. He realized his passion for singing and performing and began his journey later in life. Jacob is a baritone/bass vocalist and debuted with WBTT last season in *Guys and Dolls* as Arvide Abernathy. He was recently seen in WBTT's season opener *Once on This Island* as Armand. Jacob has studied and performed with Opera Tampa in various productions, including this year's *Sweeney Todd*. He is motivated and eager to immerse himself in future opportunities to grow and evolve as an artist.



TERRY SPANN (Private Wilkie) hails from Milwaukee, WI where he began singing and acting at an early age. He is now a passionate performing artist and director. His theater directing credits

include August Wilson's *Radio Golf*, Katori Hall's *Hoodoo Love*, and Rodger's and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*! His live performance credits include: *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Miss Ever's Boys* (WATCH Award for Outstanding Featured Actor), *Julius Caesar*, *Arabian Nights*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Clybourne Park*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Rent*, *The Wiz*, *Parade*, *Sweet Charity* and *Hair*! As an Air Force veteran this play is near and dear to his heart. He dedicates his performance to all the proud veterans who paved the way for those of us who came behind them. He's had a blast working with this amazing cast and crew and thanks his family and friends for their support!



ERIC VAN BAARS*

(Captain Taylor) Eric van Baars is honored to make his WBTT debut in this most excellent production. A recent Florida transplant, he was a long standing company member with

Ohio's Porthouse Theatre where he was involved in over 30 productions, including *Oliver* (Fagin), *Damn Yankees* (Applegate), *The Odd Couple* (Felix), *The Foreigner* (Charlie), *The Music Man* (Harold Hill), *Anything Goes* (Lord Evelyn), *Sweet Charity* (Oscar), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Herod), and most recently, *The Prom* (Barry). Other performance credits include roles with Walnut Street Theatre, GEVA, Theatre Virginia, St. Louis Rep, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Cherry County Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Beck Center for the Arts and Mercury Theatre, as well as national and international tours of *Hair* and *42nd Street*. van Baars served as the Director of the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University from 2014–2022 and holds an MFA in Acting from that institution. A long-standing member of Actors Equity Association and the Society of Directors and Choreographers, he is currently a Van Wezel teaching artist and a cat dad. www.ericvanbaars.com



JERALD WHEAT (Private Henson) Jerald is excited and humbled to be making his debut at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe in such a beautiful piece and working with such a wonderful group of people. He was last

seen in the Sarasota area in the Asolo Repertory Theatre's production of *Man of La Mancha*. Jerald is a graduate of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. He would like to thank his fellow castmates, the production crew, Chuck Smith, Nate Jacobs, and his supportive family.

CAST AND CREATIVE



DONOVAN WHITNEY* (Corporal Ellis) Donovan is very happy to be returning to the WBTT stage! In addition to his love for acting, teaching also gives Donovan a lot of joy! He has happily served

as a teaching artist (Acting) for WBTT's summer educational program Stage of Discovery. Recent WBTT credits include: *Once on This Island*, The Narrator in *Black Nativity*; Omari in *Pipeline*; The Narrator in *Joyful! Joyful!*; and Ensemble in *Jazzlinks* (Education Touring). Other Florida theater credits include: *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Footloose* (American Stage); *The Wind in the Willows* (American Stage School Tour); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *A Clockwork Orange* (Jobsite Theater); *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Stageworks Theater). Other regional credits: *Prowess* (Storefront Theater of Indianapolis); *Taming of the Shrew* (Catalyst Repertory); *Jubilee In The Rearview Mirror* (Indianapolis Fringe Festival). Screen credits include: *Paperline* (film); *Nothing Else Matters* (webseries). He would like to thank his family for their unconditional love and support! He is represented by Level Talent Group.

ROLAND BLACK (Scenic Designer) Roland Black was born and raised in the great state of Wyoming where he attended the University of Wyoming majoring in Theatre Technical Direction and Lighting Design. Over the past 25 years, Roland has worked as a Designer and Technical Director in educational, corporate and professional theatre. In his current role as WBTT Shop Foreman, Roland constructs the scenic elements for this season's productions. *A Soldier's Play* is Roland's first time designing for the WBTT stage.

ANNETTE BREAZEAL (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.

TIANNA HARRIS* (Assistant Stage Manager) is elated to return as assistant stage manager for *A Soldier's Play*! She previously worked as an ASM in this season's *Once on This Island*, and last season's *Dreamgirls* and *Flyin' West*. She enjoys learning about all the moving parts of theatre and has worked as a stagehand on countless productions. She began working with WBTT when they launched the summer camp intensive program, Stage of Discovery, in 2016. As an alumna of this program, she is no stranger to the stage. She last appeared in WBTT's holiday show *Black Nativity*. Through her work in theatre Tianna has learned a lot and is delighted to continue her work with the Westcoast Black Theatre troupe both on and off stage.

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.

ALEX PINCHIN (Projections Designer) Alex is a graduate from the University of Florida where he earned a BA in Digital Arts and Sciences with a minor in Light Design. He is currently the Production Manager and Technical Director for Urbanite Theatre. He has been working in theatre for over 16 years and has designed lights, sound, and projection for a multitude of companies including: Urbanite Theatre (Sarasota, FL), FSU/Asolo Conservatory (Sarasota, FL), Sarasota Contemporary Dance (Sarasota, FL), Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (Sarasota, FL), Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota, FL), Bay Street Players (Eustis, FL), the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL), the Rose Theatre (Omaha, NE), Baldwin Wallace Conservatory (Berea, OH), University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Edinburg, TX). Most recent designs

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include Light Design for *The Sound Inside* at Urbanite, Sound Design for *Angel Street* at the Studio Theater of Tierra Del Sol, and Projection Design for *Backwards Forward Back* at Urbanite.

JYNELLY ROSARIO* (Production Stage Manager) Tours: *Moulin Rouge!* (1st National Tour), *Hamilton* (Angelica/And Peggy/Philip), *Oklahoma!*. Off Broadway: *Square Go*, *Posting Letters to the Moon*, *Killing Time*. Regional: *Once on This Island* (Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe); *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre); *Mala* (The Old Globe); *In The Heights*, *Shrek*, *Tarzan*, *Recomposed* (Puerto Rico); *Kunstler* (Regional Premiere). Other credits include: MCC Theater, Celebrity Cruises, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Broadway Illusions, Inc., Teatro CeDIn, and The Black Box Theatre Workshop. BFA, University of Puerto Rico. For my parents, Puerto Rico, and everyone who has ever believed in my dreams. @jynellyrosario

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 *70s Soul Party* at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, and was named The 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.

KENJI TRUJILLO (Costume Designer) Kenji is thrilled to join WBTT for another season! As a proud graduate of Florida State University's film program and native Sarasotan accustomed to designing glitz costumes for both Sailor Circus and Flying High Circus, Kenji loves the challenge of creating designs for the intimacy and honesty of stage productions. She has been State College of Florida's resident costume designer for the past 5 years. While enjoying life with her three children and husband, she still finds the time to act in area plays and play in the circus at The Circus Connection. Kenji loves working at her alma mater State College of Florida as a "fun"raiser for the SCF Foundation.

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!

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.



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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Marilyn Harwell
IN MEMORIAM

Peggy & Hal Hayden

Bob Johnson
IN MEMORIAM

Darlene J. Kalada &
Richard N. Bryan

Penelope Kingman
Lynne Koy

Alan & Abbie Kurland

Rose Marie Proietti

Laurie Rosin

Jack & Priscilla Schlegel

Eva T. Slane
IN MEMORIAM

Jeffrey Smith & Deborah Mix

Mary Lou Webster



STAGE OF DISCOVERY

**Camp Dates: Mon June 10 -
Sun July 14**

An important part of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's mission is to continually develop the artistic skills and self-confidence of youth. The Stage of Discovery program is intense, focused, fun and FREE to participating students, thanks to our generous donors! It's designed for youth who are serious about developing their artistic talents.



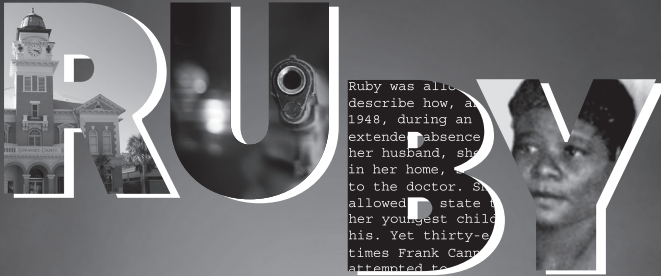
In WBTT's Stage of Discovery summer musical theatre intensive program, a limited number of students ages 13-18 are coached in acting, singing, dancing, and improvisation by creative professionals. They also gain behind-the-scenes experience with set and costume design. The program culminates in a public performance of an exciting musical. An audition is required.



Audition Inquiries: PBaptiste@WestcoastBlackTheatre.org

WestcoastBlackTheatre.org | 941.366.1505

WESTCOAST
BLACK
THEATRE
TROUPE



LYRICS BY MICHAEL JACOBS

BOOK BY NATE JACOBS & MICHAEL JACOBS

MUSIC BY NATE JACOBS, NEHEMIAH LUCKETT,
BRENNAN STYLEZ & ANTONIO WIMBERLY

DIRECTED BY NATE JACOBS

FEB 28-APR 7, 2024

MARVIN
GAYE
PRINCE OF SOUL



CREATED, ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY NATE JACOBS

APR 17-MAY 26, 2024

westcoastblacktheatre.org

941-366-1505

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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. CH17803

**WESTCOAST
BLACK
THEATRE
TROUPE**

WBTT THEATRE

1012 N. Orange Ave.
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Visit us online:
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941-366-1505

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