

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS

Joyful!

Joyful!

Created and Adapted by
Nate Jacobs

Costume Designer
Adrienne Pitts

Production Manager
James "Jay" Dodge II

Set Designers
Donna & Mark Buckalter

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Production Stage Manager
Juanita Munford*

Sound Designer
Patrick Russini

Assistant Stage Manager
Travis Ray*

Lighting Designer
Michael Pasquini

Music Director
Matthew McKinnon

Vocal Arranger
Brennan Stylez

Choreographer
Donald Frison

Director
Nate Jacobs

December 1-26, 2021

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

Isaiah Belt
Derric Gobourne Jr.
Delores McKenzie
Marta McKinnon
Michael Mejia-Mendez*
Charlie “CJ” Melton
Raleigh Mosely II
Amber Myers
Annaya Osborne
Leon S. Pitts II*
Katherine Taylor
Canela Vasquez
Samuel Waite
Donovan Whitney

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

MUSICIANS

Music Director/Bass **Matthew McKinnon**
Drums **Michael Andrews**
Guitar **Brad Foutch**
Piano **Courtland Green**
Auxiliary Keys **Amber Robinson**

SPECIAL THANKS

Pines of Sarasota
Fabulous Finds Thrift Shop

WBTT TEAM

Founder and Artistic Director.....	Nate Jacobs
Executive Director.....	Julie Leach
Development Associate.....	Regina Belvin
Artist Relations Associate and Assistant Box Office Manager.....	Ariel Blue
Resident Property Master	Annette Breazeale
Master Seamstress.....	Darci Collins
Production Manager/Resident Music Director.....	James “Jay” Dodge II
Marketing and Communications Director	Scott Ferguson
Development Director	Debra Flynt-Garrett
Resident Choreographer.....	Donald Frison
Finance Manager	Robert Grant
Box Office Associates.....	Naquila Gregory, Margaret Lindsey
Resident Sound Engineer	Alexander Judd
Custodian.....	Gerald Law
Stage Hands.....	Nacari Kearney, Adrienne Pitts, Trinity Pitts
House Associate	Mydra McKinnon
House Manager	Myllanna McKinnon
Production Assistant/Assistant to the Artistic Director.....	Michael Mendez
Sound Technician	Caleb Miller
Box Office Manager.....	Eleanor Miller
Production Stage Manager	Juanita Munford
Resident Lighting Designer.....	Michael Pasquini
Wardrobe Manager	Adrienne Pitts
Associate Managing Director	Travis Ray
Resident Sound Designer	Patrick Russini
Technical Director.....	Shane Streight
Resident Associate Music Director.....	Brennan Stylez
Education Director and Artistic Associate.....	Jim Weaver
Photographer	Sorcha Augustine
Media Relations	Sharon Kunkel, Wordslinger Marketing & PR
Graphic Design	Paula Murray, Artefact Design
Videographer.....	Bill Wagyu Productions

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our brand new holiday show! At this special time of year, we usually alternate between Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity*, and my show, *A Motown Christmas*. This year I wanted to do something different.

With the help of my amazing colleagues at WBTT, I created and staged a show with its own special holiday voice. I chose the name *Joyful! Joyful!* because that's what I am: incredibly happy and grateful to be back inside our theatre as we begin this second production of our 2021-2022 season.

We couldn't have reached this milestone without dedicated patrons like you, who were willing to come see our outdoor shows and watch our streaming videos when it wasn't possible to welcome you indoors. When we reopened the theatre this summer for our Stage of Discovery student production, *The Technicolor Musical*, audiences expressed the emotion that inspired this holiday show: JOY!

This new "Christmas card to the community," as I like to call it, includes music from groups like Earth, Wind & Fire, The Staple Singers and Stevie Wonder, as well as new versions of holiday classics that are part of the holiday traditions many of us share. For people of all faiths and even for non-believers, these songs carry universal messages of hope, peace, love and childlike wonder.

My goal in creating this show — which we plan to add to our annual rotation of holiday productions, along with *Black Nativity* and *A Motown Christmas* — was to bring something uplifting and spirit-filled to our stage, to help audiences celebrate a corner we're slowly turning after the challenging year and a half we've all experienced. Despite the challenges and heartbreaks we've faced, we have much to be joyful about.

My fervent hope for all of you is that this show will help spark the joy of this season in your hearts. Thank you for celebrating the holidays with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe!

—Nate Jacobs

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

- Hallelujah Chorus (*G.F. Handel*) **Ensemble**
- Rejoice (*R. Smallwood*) **Ensemble**
- Happy Seasons **Derric, Leon, Michael, Raleigh**
(*V. White, P. Bailey, L. Dunn, M. White, A. McKay*)
- African Noel (*A. Thomas*) **Female Ensemble**
- Carol of the Bells (*M. Leontovich, P. Wilhousky*) **Male Ensemble**
- The Last Month of the Year (*V. Hall, R.P. Tartt, A. Lomax*) **Leon, Amber,**
CJ, Derric
- African Drummer Boy (*K. Davis, H. Onorati, H. Simeone*) **Michael**
and Ensemble
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Traditional*) **Marta**
- When a Child is Born (*C. Dammicco, F. Jay*) **Delores, Raleigh**
and Ensemble
- Soulful Noel (*Variation of The First Noel, Traditional*) **Raleigh and**
Ensemble
- Up On the Housetop (*B. Hanby, J. Whitman*)... **Samuel and Male Ensemble**

ACT TWO

- Enjoy Yourself (*K. Gamble, L. Huff*) **Derric with Leon, Raleigh, Michael**
- Joy to the World (*L. Mason, I. Watts*) **Ensemble**
- The First Noel (*Traditional*) **Katherine**
- Everyone's a Kid at Christmas Time (*S. Wonder*) **Isaiah**
- Black Christmas (*P. Staples*) **Female Ensemble**
- One Little Christmas Tree (*S. Wonder*) **Samuel and Derric**
- Who Took the Merry Out of Christmas? **Canela, CJ, Leon, Raleigh,**
(*D. Parker*) **Delores, Katherine, Donovan**
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (*Traditional*) **Ensemble**
- Celebrate the Holydays **Female Ensemble**
(*Sweet Honey in the Rock, Sultans of String*)
- Joyful, Joyful **Katherine, Annaya and Ensemble**
(*L.V. Beethoven, H. Van Dyke*)

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

*Video and/or audio recording of this performance
by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.*

CAST AND CREATIVE



ISIAH BELT was featured with his fellow students in the 2021 Stage of Discovery summer production, *The Technicolor Musical*, performing “Just the Two of Us,” “Everybody is a Star” and other

songs. Nate Jacobs was impressed with his talent and enthusiasm and cast him in this show. He is happy to be part of Nate’s newest holiday musical, helping audiences celebrate the season!



DERRIC GOBOURNE JR. has appeared in WBTT’s productions of *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 the summer of 2019 he appeared in WBTT’s production of *Soul Man* at the National Black Theatre Festival. He made his debut appearance with WBTT as the talented Little Stevie Wonder in *Best of Stevie Wonder* in the summer of 2013. A graduate of Manatee High School and a self-taught musician, Derric has set his sights on becoming the greatest entertainer of all time. So it’s no coincidence that the title of his 2020 WBTT Young Artist Program was *The Greatest Entertainer*. 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.



DELORES MCKENZIE is a singer, actress and voiceover artist. She was born and raised in Sarasota and currently lives in New York City. She was a principal production singer for Norwegian Cruise Lines

for seven years, traveling to ports from Puerto Rico to Israel. Last year Delores made her television debut on Oxygen’s

Monster Preacher. 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 at WBTT this season in *EUBIE!* and was featured in last summer’s outdoor production of *Sistas in the Name of Soul*. She is thrilled to working with WBTT again!



MARTA MCKINNON returns to the WBTT stage 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* is in his 12th season with WBTT. 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*. In addition to performing with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Michael serves as Production Assistant and Assistant to the Artistic Director. 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. In 2021 he had a featured role in *Playing Through*,

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

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a soon-to-be-released 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

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 *Black Nativity* and *Your Arms*

Too Short to Box with God. Charlie was the 2013 winner of the Singers & Musicians Arts Conference (SMAC) 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

was featured in WBTT’s outdoor production of *Light Up the Night* in 2020-2021. He appeared in Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe’s 2019 production of *A Motown Christmas* at

the Sarasota Opera House and in WBTT’s staging of *Soul Man* at the National Black Theatre Festival in the summer of 2019. He was also seen in WBTT’s 2018-2019 production of *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, and in 2017-2018’s *In the Heights*, among other shows. Raleigh made his WBTT debut in the summer 2017 production of *Broadway in Black*. 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), *Violet* (Garden Theatre), *Ragtime* (Titusville Playhouse), *Hair*, *Oklahoma*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Raleigh’s single, “Why’d You Have to Go?” is available on all streaming platforms. “You can win as long as you keep your head to the sky.” Peace and Light.



AMBER MYERS is a Sarasota-Bradenton native and is no stranger to the stage. The 26-year-old actress/singer was bitten by the stage bug at age 5. She received training from Nate Jacobs and his

colleagues at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, and at Florida Studio Theatre and State College of Florida. At WBTT, Amber appeared in *Black Nativity* and *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God*, among other productions. Her passion is musical theatre; one of Amber’s goals is to expose children to the joy, freedom and self-confidence that theatre brings.



ANNAYA OSBORNE

is thrilled to perform in Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe’s production of *Joyful! Joyful!* Annaya is a graduate of Maltz Jupiter Theatre Conservatory of Performing Arts

Professional Training Program. Her WBTT credits include *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God* (Ensemble) and *Caroline, or Change* (Radio 2). Other shows and roles include *Hair* (Mary), *Ragtime* (Sarah’s friend), *A Little Night Music* (Petra), *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Ronnette), *Shout: The Mod Musical* (Yellow Girl), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Phantom), *Godspell* (Joanne), *West Side Story* (Anita), *Anything Goes* (Captain) and many more.



LEON S. PITTS II*

is a longtime WBTT troupe member. He has performed in several of its productions, including *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 2019 he appeared in WBTT’s production

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of *Soul Man* at the National Black Theatre Festival. Leon has danced 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).



KATHERINE TAYLOR

was born in Atlanta, where she attended Tri-Cities High School. She majored in Theatre at Clark Atlanta University, then attended Texas State University, majoring in Performance

and Production. Some of her college theatre roles include Charlayne in a production of *In Real Life*, Lady in Red in the choreo-poem *For Colored Girls*, and the third witch in *Macbeth*. In addition to her love of musical theater, Katherine has a passion for jazz singing, which she performs professionally.



CANELA VASQUEZ was born in Sarasota and is currently dual-enrolled at Manatee School for the Arts and State College of Florida. Canela made her WBTT debut five years ago through the Stage of Discovery summer

program and continues to perform at the theatre. Her favorite WBTT credits are the Stage of Discovery productions *Broadway in Black Jr.*, *The Technicolor Musical*, and *A Journey to Motown*. *Joyful!* is her first appearance in a WBTT regular season show. Canela is currently completing her final semester of high school while simultaneously finishing her college associate degree — all while managing a budding professional career in the performing arts. Canela is honored to be a part of *Joyful! Joyful!* She thanks Nate Jacobs for always believing in her as a performer. “Lastly, thank you to my beautiful family that has always supported my passion to perform: Tu amor me guía a través de cada triunfo y cada tropiezo.”



SAMUEL WAITE is 13 years old; he is in the eighth grade at Booker Middle School. He has been performing at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for three years, as well as singing at special events throughout the

community, representing WBTT at many venues. Samuel 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 in the last three years. Musical theater is the love of his life and he hopes to one day be on Broadway.



DONOVAN WHITNEY is overjoyed to be returning to the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe stage! He was most recently seen as Omari in WBTT's streaming video production of *Pipeline*. Donovan has

happily served as an acting instructor for the Troupe's Stage of Discovery Musical Theatre Intensive Program for students ages 13-18. He has also worked with Jazzlinks, WBTT's touring education program that brings African American history and culture presentations to high schools. Other theater credits include *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Stageworks Theatre), *Between Riverside and Crazy* (American Stage), *Prowess* (Storefront Theater of Indianapolis), and *Paper Swords: A Musical* (Indianapolis Fringe). “Special thanks to my family for their constant love and support!”



NATE JACOBS (Creator, Adapter and 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

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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 2019 he brought *Soul Man* to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. — WBTT's fourth 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.



MATTHEW MCKINNON

(Music Director)
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, majoring in Music Education. Matthew has written and arranged music for several solo artists and choirs. He has been fortunate to perform and share the stage with such great entertainers as Kirk Franklin, James Ingram, Peabo Bryson, Keri Hilson and others. Matthew serves as Minister of Music for Bethlehem Bible Church. He also teaches private voice and piano lessons. Matthew is married to his lovely wife, Nilaja.



BRENNAN STYLEZ

(Vocal Arranger) first wants to give honor to God, who is the head of his life. Brennan is blessed to be a member of the production team for *Joyful! Joyful!* and the new Resident

Associate Music Director for Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. A well-versed Arranger/Producer/Songwriter/Multi-Instrumentalist, Brennan's WBTT credits include *EUBIE!*, *Real Life*, *Raisin*, *The Supercilious Seed*, *Ain't No Stopping Us Now!* *WBTT's 20th Anniversary Celebration*, *A Motown Christmas*, *Caroline or Change*, *Soul Crooners*, *Sistas in the Name of Soul*, *The Technicolor Musical* and *American Roots: The Gospel Experience* (in collaboration with Key Chorale). Brennan was accepted into Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, but later attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in Music Direction. Brennan has accompanied artists such as Donnie McClurkin, Kierra Sheard, Shalom Church City of Peace Mass Choir, Shalom Church City of Peace Next Generation Choir, National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, and singer-songwriter Goepele for a livestreamed Kennedy Center performance. He has performed on live TV for ABC, NBC and Fox News to showcase the productions for which he served as music director. In 2018-2019 he was nominated for his first Handy Award (Jay Handelman, Sarasota Herald-Tribune) for the Music Direction of *Raisin* at WBTT. Brennan's most recent projects involved being a virtual instructor for children in Mozambique, Africa, as well as his own live Korg USA concert. Follow his work on Instagram @Bstylezmusic.



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

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performer include *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 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!"



JAMES "JAY" DODGE II (Production Manager/Resident Music Director) has served as WBTT's Production Manager and Resident Music Director for over a decade. A producer, composer, arranger and songwriter,

Jay oversaw the production and music for three of WBTT's four appearances at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. He began playing the bass at age 13 and, through the years, has directed several band ensembles and accompanied many singers with his smooth melodic bass playing. He has traveled with the renowned Westcoast Gospel Chorus of Florida and The HLP Love Campaign, touring the U.S., Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, and performing a holiday show at the White House. His local and national TV appearances include Fox, NBC, BET and the CW Network. Jay has accompanied many artists, including recording sensation Terrell Carter, Kermit Quinn of the vocal group Blackstreet, Broadway stars Melba Moore and Chester Gregory, international recording artist Frank McComb, and gospel greats Hezekiah Walker, Kim Burrell, Shirley Caesar, Albertina Walker, Dorothy Norwood, Kurt Carr, Byron Cage, Richard Smallwood and Bishop Walter Hawkins. Jay holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance from Florida International University. He is a loving husband to his wife Renae and father to his two boys, Jay and Kai.

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.

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."

ADRIENNE PITTS (Costume Designer) has worked with WBTT as an actress and stage hand for over 16 years. She started out on stage but soon realized she loved working backstage even more. Adrienne has been the Wardrobe Manager and Lead Stage Hand for WBTT since 2017. She was the Assistant Costume Designer for *Raisin*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul* and *Black Nativity*. Adrienne has costumed *A Motown Christmas*, *The Mountaintop*, *Soul Man*, *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God*, *Light Up the Night*, *Technicolor*

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Musical, and was the Assistant Costume Designer for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*. Adrienne has also been writing for over 15 years and has been blessed to work with her mentor, Nate Jacobs. Her love of writing stems from an opportunity to write a play for her church youth group. Since the moment the play was performed, Adrienne knew she wanted to be a creative writer and eventually see her plays come to life on stage. She wrote the script for WBTT's 2019 Stage of Discovery summer show, *A Journey to Motown* and was the Costume Designer for that show as well. She is also interested in writing television series. In 2021 she served as the wardrobe assistant to actor Andia Winslow for *Playing Through*, a soon-to-be-released feature film about the struggles and triumphs of Ann Gregory, a woman of color who was a pioneer in the elite and competitive world of golf. Adrienne is grateful for Nate Jacobs and the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for allowing her to learn and grow in this amazing company.

ANNETTE BREAZEALE (Properties Designer) is WBTT's Resident Property Master. 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.

MICHAEL PASQUINI (Lighting Designer) most recently designed for WBTT's *EUBIE!*, *Light Up the Night*, *Sistas in the Name of Soul*, *Caroline, or Change*, *A Motown Christmas*, *Black Nativity*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul* and *Raisin*, to name a few. Among his other credits are lighting *Falsettos* for the Players Centre for Performing Arts and several shows for Florida Studio Theatre, including *Shades of Bublé: A Three-Man Tribute to Michael Bublé*, *My Lord*, *What a Night*, *Great Balls of Fire* and *Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas*. Michael is the assistant lighting designer and master electrician for the Sarasota Opera and serves as Treasurer for IATSE Local 412. He is a graduate of Booker High School's VPA Theatre Program and Florida State University's School of Theatre.

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 twice with WBTT Founder and Artistic Director Nate Jacobs and other troupe performers and production staff to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., run 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.

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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**WESTCOAST
BLACK
THEATRE
TROUPE**

WBTT THEATRE

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