

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS  
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
PRESENTS

# BIG SEXY

THE FATS WALLER REVUE

CREATED AND ADAPTED BY  
NATE JACOBS

Dramaturg  
**Donovan Whitney**

Dramaturg  
**Michael Jacobs**

Costume Designer  
**Adrienne Pitts**

Wig Designer  
**Dominique Freeman**

Properties Designer  
**Annette Breazeale**

Scenic Designer  
**Jeffrey Weber**

Production Manager  
**Kevin White**

Production Stage Manager  
**Juanita Munford\***

Music Director  
**Matthew McKinnon**

Choreographer  
**Donald Frison**

Director  
**Nate Jacobs**

Assistant Stage Manager  
**KaCie Ley**

Lighting Designer  
**Michael Pasquini**

Sound Designer  
**Patrick Russini**

**April 19–May 28, 2023**

Scenery constructed by  
Asolo Rep Scenic Studios.

Paid for in part by Sarasota County  
Tourist Development Tax Revenues.  
This project is sponsored in part by the  
Department of State, Division of Arts &  
Culture, the Florida Council of Arts and  
Culture, and the State of Florida.



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



CAST

Leon S. Pitts\* ..... Leon Pitts  
Ariel Blue .....Devenae Darling  
Jazzmin Carson .....Henrietta Hash  
Andrea Jean ..... Sherry Sunshine  
Ulric Alfred Taylor ..... Leroy Levanthall and Understudy for Mr. Pitts

*Thanks to our stagehand Kiamani Canady for her  
brief onstage cameo appearance in Act 2.*

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

MUSICIANS

Matthew McKinnon .....Music Director/Piano  
Jason Whitmore ..... Reeds  
Brad Foutch ..... Guitar  
Dan Haedicke ..... Bass  
John Walker .....Drums



WE CONGRATULATE THE  
WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGING THE MUSIC  
AND LEGACY OF OUR UNCLE,

**THOMAS 'FATS'  
WALLER**

**AN AMERICAN ICON**



**THE FAMILY OF THOMAS 'FATS' WALLER**

Gertrude Waller  
Danette Waller McKinley  
Donald M. Waller  
John R. Waller  
Rochelle Brown  
Stacey Brown  
Steven R. Ewing  
Michael L. Ewing

Lorraine and Gregg Matthews

## WBTT TEAM

Founder & Artistic Director.....	<b>Nate Jacobs</b>
Executive Director .....	<b>Julie Leach</b>
Education and Outreach Associate .....	<b>Peterly Jean Baptiste</b>
Development Associate.....	<b>Regina Belvin</b>
Shop Foreman.....	<b>Roland Black</b>
Artist Relations Associate & Assistant Box Office Manager.....	<b>Ariel Blue</b>
Resident Property Artisan Manager .....	<b>Annette Breazeale</b>
Stage Hands.....	<b>Kiamani Canady, Mydra McKinnon, Caleb Miller</b>
Wardrobe Department Intern.....	<b>Juan Rodriguez Castro</b>
Resident Seamstress.....	<b>Darci Collins</b>
Properties Intern.....	<b>Jayde Dauley</b>
Development Director.....	<b>Debra Flynt-Garrett</b>
Resident Choreographer.....	<b>Donald Frison</b>
Receptionist & Box Office Associate.....	<b>Arnette German</b>
Finance Manager.....	<b>Robert Grant</b>
Marketing And Communications Director.....	<b>Beth Graves</b>
Production Assistant .....	<b>Tianna Harris</b>
Sound Assistant.....	<b>Austin Jacobs</b>
Resident Sound Engineer .....	<b>Alexander Judd</b>
Custodian .....	<b>Gerald Law</b>
Box Office Associate .....	<b>Margaret Lindsey</b>
Resident Music Director .....	<b>Matthew McKinnon</b>
House Associates.....	<b>Marta McKinnon, Mydra McKinnon</b>
House Manager.....	<b>Myllanna McKinnon</b>
Box Office Manager.....	<b>Eleanor Miller</b>
Production Stage Manager .....	<b>Juanita Munford</b>
Resident Lighting Designer.....	<b>Michael Pasquini</b>
Wardrobe Manager.....	<b>Adrienne Pitts</b>
Marketing Associate.....	<b>Maicy Powell</b>
Resident Sound Designer .....	<b>Patrick Russini</b>
Technical Director .....	<b>Shane Streight</b>
Education Director & Artistic Associate.....	<b>Jim Weaver</b>
Production Manager .....	<b>Kevin White</b>
Assistant to the Artistic Director, .....	<b>Donovan Whitney</b>
Casting Coordinator	
Photography .....	<b>Sorcha Augustine</b>
Media Relations.....	<b>Sharon Kunkel, Wordslinger Marketing &amp; PR</b>
Graphic Design.....	<b>Paula Murray, Artefact Design</b>
Videography.....	<b>James Berry/Captivision Media &amp; Bill Wagyu/Bill Wagyu Productions</b>

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The inspiration for *Big Sexy* was to showcase one of the leading men of WBTT, Leon Pitts, who has been coined “WBTT’s Teddy Bear.” Leon has dedicated over 15 years of his time and unique talent to our shows, fundraising events, and many special performances throughout our community. One day he joked with me about creating a show for him and the name should be “Big Sexy”. Not long after that time, I began creating this show. From a very young performer starting at the age of 17, Leon had a natural ability to bring life, comedy, and excitement to every song he performs. This attribute was also significant in the work, music, and celebrity of Thomas “Fats” Waller. I have always celebrated Leon for his undeniable uniqueness, likewise I feel the masterful uniqueness of Mr. Waller has made him the successful and unforgettable musician that he is. It has been a joy developing this piece with my assistant Donovan Whitney who has done some wonderful research of Mr. Waller’s life that was very instrumental in telling our story about him. I know you will enjoy this delightful musical also featuring a popular leading lady of WBTT, Ariel Blue, and some exciting new talent who joins them in the ensemble of *Big Sexy*. Additionally, the show features some of Mr. Waller’s most popular tunes—“Ain’t Misbehavin’”, “I’m Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter”, “Honeysuckle Rose”, and some unfamiliar Waller songs that have not been featured in any musicals to date. Here it is folks—enjoy!

—Nate Jacobs

## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Working on *Big Sexy* with Nate Jacobs was an absolute joy! This is my first time serving as Dramaturg for any production, but I am blessed that Mr. Jacobs trusted me enough to conduct the research for this wonderful show. In my research on Fats Waller I not only learned of his many accomplishments and stories, but I felt like I got a sense of who the man was. A musical prodigy with a love for people as big as his appetite, Fats was always making sure that his friends, loved ones, and even complete strangers were okay. My main sources of research were in two books, *Ain't Misbehavin'* written by Fats' last manager Ed Kirkeby, and *Fats Waller* written by his son Maurice Waller. Both books contained loads of information on Mr. Waller— and between these two books I felt like I was getting a front row seat to Fats' life. I hope you will enjoy the show and take some history along with you!

—Donovan Whitney

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Dr. Bernard & Lois Watson

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Fabulous Finds benefitting The Pines of Sarasota

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

- I'm A Great Big Baby ..... **Leon**  
(*E. Blake-A. Razaf*)
- Living In A Great Big Way ..... **Leon, Leroy, Devenae, Sherry, Henrietta**  
(*T. McHugh-D. Fields*)
- I Got My Fingers Crossed ..... **Leon, Leroy, Devenae, Sherry, Henrietta**  
(*J. McHugh-H. Brooks*)
- Harlem Fuss (underscore) ..... **Band**  
(*F. Waller*)
- Won't You Please Come Home? ..... **Devenae**  
(*H. Cannon*)
- Hold Tight (I Want Some Seafood Mama) ..... **Leon, Leroy**  
(*W. Spottswood-G. Robinson-L. Ware*)
- Keeping Out of Mischief ..... **Sherry**  
(*F. Waller-A. Razaf*)
- Nothing for Nothing ..... **Devenae**  
(*M. Gould-D. Fields*)
- I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling in Love ..... **Henrietta**  
(*F. Waller-H. Link-B. Rose*)
- Two Sleepy People ..... **Leon, Devenae**  
(*H. Carmichael-F. Loesser*)
- Zoot Suit ..... **Leroy, Henrietta**  
(*W. Gilbert-B. O'Brien*)
- My Very Good Friend The Milkman ..... **Leon**  
(*H. Spina-J. Burke*)
- Why Don't You Do Right? ..... **Devenae**  
(*K.J. McCoy-H. Morand*)
- Ball in the Jack ..... **Leon, Leroy, Devenae, Sherry, Henrietta**  
(*J. Burris-C. Smith*)
- It's A Sin to Tell A Lie ..... **Leon, Leroy, Devenae, Sherry, Henrietta**  
(*B. Mayhew*)

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

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

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT TWO

Entr'acte .....	<b>Band</b>
<i>(J.P. Johnson)</i>	
The Joint is Jumpin' .....	<b>Devenae, Sherry, Henrietta</b>
<i>(F. Waller-A. Razof-J.C. Johnson)</i>	
Your Feet's Too Big .....	<b>Leon, Leroy</b>
<i>(F. Fisher-A. Benson)</i>	
Honeysuckle Rose.....	<b>Leroy, Sherry</b>
<i>(F. Waller-A. Razof)</i>	
Ain't Misbehavin' .....	<b>Leon, Devenae</b>
<i>(F. Waller-A. Razaf-H. Brooks)</i>	
Viper Drag.....	<b>Leon</b>
<i>(F. Waller)</i>	
Dinah.....	<b>Leon</b>
<i>(H. Akst-S. Lewis-J. Young)</i>	
All That Meat and No Potatoes.....	<b>Leroy</b>
<i>(F. Waller-E. Kirkeby)</i>	
Black and Blue.....	<b>Leon, Leroy, Devenae, Sherry, Henrietta</b>
<i>(F. Waller-A. Razaf-H. Brooks)</i>	
It Must Be Illegal .....	<b>Devenae</b>
<i>(F. Waller)</i>	
That Ain't Right.....	<b>Leon, Devenae</b>
<i>(N. Cole-I. Mills)</i>	
Stormy Weather .....	<b>Henrietta</b>
<i>(H. Arlen-T. Koeler)</i>	
Honey Hush .....	<b>Leon, Leroy</b>
<i>(F. Waller-I. Kirkeby)</i>	
Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter.....	<b>Leon</b>
<i>(F. Waller-J. Young-F. Ahlert)</i>	
I Can't Give You Anything but Love.....	<b>Leon, Leroy, Devenae, Sherry,</b>
<i>(J. McHugh-D. Fields)</i>	<b>Henrietta</b>
When Somebody Thinks You're Wonderful.....	<b>Leon, Leroy, Devenae,</b>
<i>(F. Waller-H. Woods )</i>	<b>Sherry, Henrietta</b>

## CAST AND CREATIVE



**NATE JACOBS\***  
(Founder/Artistic Director/Director/Playwright) is Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's Founder & Artistic Director. He is a driving force in Florida's theatre scene. A graduate of

Florida A&M University, Nate founded Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe in 1999. He has written, composed, directed and performed in many shows, as an actor, singer, dancer and comedian. He works extensively in the community, training and mentoring youth in the performing arts. As a result of his outstanding contributions to young people, the Sarasota County Branch NAACP Youth Council recognized Nate as one of its 2012 Men of Valor. In the spring of 2013, he was inducted into the Community Video Archives Hall of Fame for his significant contributions to the arts and education. In 2015, Nate was recognized as a Champion of Diversity for the arts during the *Biz(941)* and *La Guia* magazines' Unity Awards Luncheon, and was honored with the prestigious Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award during the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., "for his contributions to Black theatre specifically and American theatre in general." In 2017, Goodwill Manasota named him a Community Ambassador of the Year. In 2018, the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County honored Nate with the Arts Leadership Award for Artistic Achievement. In August 2022 he brought *Soul Crooners, Featuring Sistas in the Name of Soul* to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. – WBTT's fifth appearance there. In 2021 Nate received the Perfect Pitch Award from Key Chorale, which recognized him as a driving force in the arts and for his collaborations with other arts organizations, including *American Roots: The Gospel Experience*, a series of concert performances with WBTT performers and Key Chorale presented in three area churches in the fall of 2019. 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 *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 the WBTT resident music director. Being no stranger to the theater scene, Matthew has had the opportunity to music direct several productions including

*Broadway in Black*, Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity*, WBTT's Stage of Discovery production *We Dream, Joyful! Joyful!*, 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 a 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 such great entertainers as Kirk Franklin, James Ingram, Peabo

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



## CAST AND CREATIVE

Bryson, and others. Matthew is also an award-nominated recording artist under the name Matt Mykel with his music now being distributed on all digital platforms. He is a proud husband and married to his lovely wife, Nilaja who he calls Sunny.



**ARIEL BLUE** (Devenae Darling) a well-known member of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, was recently featured in *The Know Women* (Sarasota) magazine. Her many appearances on the WBTT stage

include *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*. In 2019 Ariel appeared in WBTT's production of *Soul Man* at the National Black Theatre Festival. 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 WBTT's Artist Relations Associate and Assistant Box Office Manager. [www.simplyarielblue.com](http://www.simplyarielblue.com) / IG: @simplyarielblue.



**JAZZMIN CARSON** (Henrietta Hash) is delighted to be in her second production at Westcoast Black Theater Troupe! Her credits include performances such as *Dreamgirls*, *The Color Purple* with City

Springs Theater of Georgia, and roles such as Black Mary in August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* and Silver in Dominique Morriseau's *Paradise Blue*, performed at her alma mater Alabama State University. 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 and be a part of this phenomenal production with other talented artists who love the theatre just as much as she does!



**ANDREA JEAN** (Sherry Sunshine) is incredibly grateful and super excited to make her onstage debut at WBTT! She is a full time mom and a student at State College of Florida-Manatee Sarasota.

One of her goals is to learn Greetings & "Thank You" in 100 languages (84 to go!). Andrea bridges the seeming gaps between her passions as a healing artist. Some of her credits include Squeak/Ensemble- *The Color Purple*, Charlaine- *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and Local Mae Brady/ Swing 2- *Lil & Louis*. Her skill sets include: playing harp, facilitating movement and music therapy for toddlers & elderly adults, prenatal massage/yoga, Doulaship, Elder Travel Companionship, and Virtual Administration Assistance @ [blissfulljourneywellnessco](https://www.blissfulljourneywellnessco.com).



**LEON PITTS\*** (Leon Pitts), a longtime WBTT troupe member and an original member of the *Soul Crooners*, has toured with the group twice to Germany and performed twice at the National Black Theatre

Festival where the group won Best of the Best both times. He has performed in several of its productions, including *Guys and Dolls*, *Joyful! Joyful!*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, *Soul Man*, *The Wiz* (Tin Man), *Hot Mikado*, *Soul Crooners*, *Love Sung in the Key of Aretha* and *The Fabulous 5*. In August 2022 he appeared in WBTT's production of *Soul Crooners*, *Featuring Sistas in the Name of Soul* at the National Black Theatre Festival. Leon has danced in and choreographed many local shows and concerts, and spent the summer of 2005 in Tucson, Ariz., and Coral Springs, Fla., where he appeared in *Five Guys Named Moe* (as No Moe).

## CAST AND CREATIVE



### **ULRIC ALFRED TAYLOR**

(Leroy Levanthall, stagehand Act 1) is super excited to be making his WBTT debut. A recent graduate of Western Connecticut State University with a BFA in Musical Theatre, Ulric's

credits include Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Mr. Lindquist in *A Little Night Music* and Moose in *Crazy For You*, among others. He wants to thank God, his mom, grandma, and Aunt Jo. He would also like to thank Jim, Bridget, and his family at BLOC agency. He would also like to thank the entire creative team at the WBTT for such an amazing experience!

**ANNETTE BREAZEALE** (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.

**ADRIENNE PITTS** (Costume Designer) has worked with WBTT as an actress and stage hand for over 17 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 for *Joyful! Joyful!*, *A Motown Christmas*, *The Mountaintop*, *Soul Man*, *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God*, *Light Up the Night*, *Technicolor Musical*, and was the Assistant Costume Designer for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and 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 movie 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.

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

**MICHAEL JACOBS** (Dramaturg) Michael has a long cultivated passion for theatre and the arts. He is an accomplished poet and playwright and was founder and director of two community theatre groups in the Washington, DC area. Michael also served on the board of directors of the Essential Theatre in Washington. Michael is an attorney specializing in employment, labor, entertainment, and sports law. He also teaches in the graduate school programs at City University of New York and New York University. As part of his ongoing contribution to the arts, Michael provides pro bono legal services and support to many young and aspiring artists. He is a graduate of Howard University Law School and Florida A&M University where he studied Pre-law and Theatre.

**KACIE LEY** (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to begin working with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Previous Credits include: *Gypsy: A Musical Fable* (Stage Manager), *WROL* (Stage Manager) *Carrie* (Artistic Director, Properties Designer), *Young Frankenstein* (Assistant Stage Manager), *A Doll's House Part Two* (Stage Manager), *Perfect Arrangement* (Stage Manager), *Tuck Everlasting* (Stage Manager), *Brontë* (Stage Manager).

## CAST AND CREATIVE

**JUANITA MUNFORD\*** (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 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 everyone at WBTT.

**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 WBTT shows since he joined the staff in 2016 as Sound Engineer; he was recently named Resident Sound Designer for the company. Patrick has traveled three times with WBTT Founder and Artistic Director Nate Jacobs, other troupe performers and production staff to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., ran sound for WBTT's *70's 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.

**MICHAEL PASQUINI** (Lighting Designer) Recent WBTT designs include *Black Nativity*, *Guys and Dolls*; Stage of Discovery's *We Dream; From Birmingham to Broadway*; *Float Like a Butterfly*; *Joyful! Joyful!* and *Eubie!* Other recent area designs include *How to Succeed...* for Manatee Players and the *Ukraine Ballet Benefit* at Steinmetz Hall in Orlando, FL. This past spring, Michael was the Assistant Lighting Designer for two Asolo Rep productions: *Hood* and *Knoxville*. In addition to his design work, Michael is the Head Electrician and Assistant Lighting Designer for the Sarasota Opera and serves as Treasurer for Local 412 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Michael would like to dedicate this show in memory of Michael Newton-Brown, a colleague, mentor and friend.

**JEFFREY WEBER** (Scenic Designer) A New York native with a fine arts background, he received his master's degree in scenic design from the University of Nebraska. Now a Florida resident, Jeff works nationally with theatre companies including Majestic Repertory Theater and Super Summer Theatre in Las Vegas, the FSU Asolo Conservatory, Urbanite Theatre, Freefall Theatre, Horizon Theatre Company, and the Springer Opera House to name a few. Jeff is a proud member of USA 829 as a Scenic Designer, and enjoys working collaboratively to bring an artistic vision to reality on the stage.

**KEVIN WHITE** (Production Manager) Prior to moving to Sarasota in May 2021, Kevin worked as a Theatre Artist in the Philadelphia area. Due to Covid-19 layoffs, Kevin moved to Sarasota to work at Florida Studio Theatre as their Company Manager. Kevin has loved the arts scene here in Sarasota and is ecstatic to be working in Theatre Production at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe! A graduate of DeSales University (2015) and the Arden Professional Apprenticeship Program (Class of 2023), he has worked on production, education, and artistic projects with a wide range of Philadelphia professional theatre companies. In addition to arts administration and theatrical production experience, Kevin is an actor, director, producer, and comedian. Outside of theatre you can find him cooking, biking, playing video games, and running the occasional 5k. Much love to Tori, Chloe, and family—chosen and otherwise!

**DONOVAN WHITNEY\*** (Dramaturg) Recent WBTT credits include: Frank Charles in *Flyin' West*; The Narrator in *Black Nativity*; Omari in *Pipeline*; The Narrator in *Joyful! Joyful!*; and Ensemble in *Jazzlinks* (Education Touring). Other Florida theatre 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.



# Grace

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MATELYN ALICIA



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*Contributions received between Nov. 30, 2022 and March 31, 2023 (Donors who contributed between Jan. 1, 2022 and Nov. 29, 2022 are listed in our season playbook.)*

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\*Denotes 5 years or more of continuous support

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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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