

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS

DREAMGIRLS

MUSIC BY **HENRY KRIEGER**
LYRICS AND BOOK BY **TOM EYEN**

Costume Designer
Darci Collins

Wig Designer
Dominique Freeman

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Set Designer
Jeffrey Weber

Production Manager
Kevin White

Production Stage Managers
Lizzi Nehls*
Juanita Munford*

Assistant Stage Managers
Arnette German*
Tianna Harris*

Lighting Designer
Ethan Vail

Projection Designer
Austin Jacobs

Projection Consultant
Alex Pinchin

Sound Designer
Patrick Russini

Music Director
Steven Zumbun

Assistant Director/Choreographer
Donald Frison

Director
Nate Jacobs

February 22–April 9, 2023

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC

Scenery constructed by
Asolo Rep Scenic Studios.

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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

Joann/Ensemble	Jada Austin
Stepsister/Ensemble	Emily Bailey
Ensemble.....	Bryce Bayer
Michelle Morris/Ensemble	Kyla Bolling
Curtis Taylor Jr.	Brian L. Boyd
Stepsister/Ensemble	Jazzmin Carson
Deena Jones.....	Caila Carter*
Lorrell Robinson	Maya Cuevas
Frank/Ensemble	Donald Frison*
Wayne/Ensemble.....	Derric Gobourne Jr.
M.C./ Ensemble.....	Dale Hill
Marty	Michael Kinsey
Tiny Joe Dixon/Ensemble.....	Charlie “CJ” Melton
Jimmy “Thunder” Early.....	Raleigh Mosely II*
Stepsister/Ensemble.....	Maicy Powell
Effie White	Shena Renee*
C.C. White	Nate Summers*
Ensemble.....	Rickey Tedesco

UNDERSTUDIES

Shantel Norman
Terrell Alexander

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

Setting: The action first takes place at the Apollo Theatre in the 1960s and follows the rise of The Dreams through the 1970s.

MUSICIANS

Our live band plays backstage!

Music Director/ Main Keys	Steven Zumbun
Guitar	Brad Foutch
Bass	Dan Haedicke
Keys 2	Darren Server
Trumpet	Miranda Simonne
Drums	Trey Byars
Reeds	Jason Whitmore

WBTT TEAM

Founder & Artistic Director.....	Nate Jacobs
Executive Director.....	Julie Leach
Education and Outreach Associate.....	Peterly Jean Baptiste
Development Associate.....	Regina Belvin
Artist Relations Associate & Assistant Box Office Manager.....	Ariel Blue
Resident Property Artisan Manager.....	Annette Breazeale
Stage Hands.....	Kiamani Kanady, Mydra McKinnon, Amber Myers, Javisha Strong, Donovan Whitney
Wardrobe Department Intern.....	Juan Rodriguez Castro
Resident Seamstress.....	Darci Collins
Properties Intern.....	Jayde Dauley
Development Director.....	Debra Flynt-Garrett
Resident Choreographer.....	Donald Frison
Receptionist & Box Office Associate.....	Arnette German
Finance Manager.....	Robert Grant
Marketing And Communications Director.....	Beth Graves
Production Assistant.....	Tianna Harris
Sound Assistant.....	Austin Jacobs
Resident Sound Engineer.....	Alexander Judd
Custodian.....	Gerald Law
Box Office Associate.....	Margaret Lindsey
Resident Music Director.....	Matthew McKinnon
House Associates.....	Marta McKinnon, Mydra McKinnon
House Manager.....	Myllanna McKinnon
Box Office Manager.....	Eleanor Miller
Production Stage Manager.....	Juanita Munford
Resident Lighting Designer.....	Michael Pasquini
Wardrobe Manager.....	Adrienne Pitts
Marketing Associate.....	Maicy Powell
Resident Sound Designer.....	Patrick Russini
Technical Director.....	Shane Streight
Education Director & Artistic Associate.....	Jim Weaver
Production Manager.....	Kevin White
Assistant 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.....	James Berry/Captivision Media & Bill Wagy/Bill Wagy Productions

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Keeping with our “American Dreams” theme for this season, I am excited to present the Broadway musical *Dreamgirls*. WBTT has performed this show twice before—in 2015 and 2017. We have grown and matured in many ways since 2017, and I wanted to offer this popular Tony and Grammy award-winning musical to our audience and patrons again as we celebrate our 23rd year. This show epitomizes our theme because it deals with three young ladies working hard to achieve their American Dream and how they confront and deal with obstacles and challenges on their rise to stardom.

We have put a lot of hard work and passion into tonight’s show. I know you will enjoy *Dreamgirls*, presented with the verve and excitement that only WBTT can bring! I also encourage you to keep believing in your dreams and never stop until destiny delivers you your heart’s desire. Enjoy!

—Nate Jacobs

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

When I realized we would be doing *Dreamgirls*, the team and I decided to pay homage to the original Broadway production. As the choreographer, I also wanted to pay homage to the original choreographers, Michael Peters and Michael Bennett, who created great choreography for the show. So when you see our production of *Dreamgirls* you will get that experience of the original Broadway show.

To the cast of *Dreamgirls*, thank you for your amazing talents and all your hard work, you all are Rock Stars! Thank you Nate Jacobs for this opportunity, and for trusting me and my work, the journey has been Amazing!

—Donald Frison

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Tom Eyan (b. August 14, 1940–May 26, 1991) is an award-winning playwright, lyricist, writer, and director. He was born in Cambridge, Ohio and studied at Ohio State University and American Academy of Dramatic Arts. His career kickstarted with experimental theatre that premiered Off-Off Broadway and Off-Broadway. His experimental works include *The Dirtiest Show in Town*, *The Dirtiest Musical in Town* (which starred Nell Carter) and *Women Behind Bars*. He achieved mainstream success with the premiere of his biggest hit *Dreamgirls*. It was nominated for thirteen Tony Awards, of which he received the awards for Best Original Score and Best Book. He also received a Grammy Award for the *Dreamgirls* soundtrack.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Rose Marie Proietti
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in Memory of Alan E. Feen
Northern Trust
Gregory & Kimberly Parris
Richard Perlman
Susan Straus
Betsy Sublette
Dr. Ray & Fran Taylor

SPECIAL THANKS

Fabulous Finds benefitting The Pines of Sarasota
Manatee Performing Arts Center
Scavengers Marketplace

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

I'm Looking for Something, Baby	Stepsisters, Charlene, Joann, Marty, Curtis, Little Albert & The Tru-Tones, C.C., Effie, Deena, Lorrell
Tiny Joe Dixon.....	Tiny Joe Dixon
Move (You're Steppin' on My Heart)	Effie, Deena, Lorrell
Transition to Fake Your Way	Ensemble
Fake Your Way to the Top	Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell
Cadillac Car (Aria)	Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Marty
On The Road (Cadillac Car)	C.C., Jimmy, Marty, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
Movin' Out/ Recording Studio ..	Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
Cadillac Car (A La Pat Boone)	Dave & Sweethearts, Ensemble
Steppin' To the Bad Side.....	Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Wayne, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
Party-Party	Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Effie, Lorrell, Ensemble
Baby-Baby	Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
Family	Jimmy, C.C., Curtis, Effie, Deena, Lorrell
Show Biz Transition	Ensemble
Dreamgirls.....	Deena, Effie, Lorrell
Reporters.....	Deena, Effie, Lorrell, Ensemble
Heavy	Curtis, Deena, Effie, Lorrell
Walkin' Down the Strip	Jimmy
It's All Over	Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle
(And I'm Telling You) I'm Not Going.....	Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Curtis, Ensemble

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

(Reprise: Dreamgirls).....	Jimmy, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Curtis, Ensemble
I Am Changing	Effie
I Am Changing (Vogue).....	Curtis, C.C., Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Ensemble
You Are My Dream.....	Curtis, Deena
Ain't No Party	Jimmy, Lorrell, Tuxedos
I Meant You No Harm	Jimmy, C.C., Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
Rap.....	Jimmy, Frank, Curtis, C.C., Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
I Miss You, Old Friend.....	Marty, C.C., Effie, Les Styles
One Night Only	Effie, Women Ensemble
One Night Only Disco.....	Curtis, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Ensemble
Chicago	C.C., Marty, Mr. Morgan, Curtis, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle
Hard to Say Goodbye, (My Love).....	Curtis, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Effie

CAST AND CREATIVE



NATE JACOBS*
(Founder/Artistic Director/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 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

CAST AND CREATIVE

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*
(Assistant Director/
Choreographer/
Ensemble) 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!"



STEVEN ZUMBRUN
(Music Director) is very excited to make his WBTT debut, especially with the masterpiece *Dreamgirls*. He was fortunate enough to music direct *Dreamgirls* once before at his

second home, the Springer Opera House (also starring the lovely Shena Renee). For more than 30 years Steven has been a vagabond, making music all over the country (including Alaska) with such productions as *Sweeney Todd*,

Hedwig and the Angry Inch, *Songs for a New World*, *The Full Monty*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Wings*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Last year saw the world premiere of his and Ivan Sherman's original show, "Gene Kelly's Lost Musical." Steven also tap dances and plays the accordion (sometimes at the same time).



JADA AUSTIN (Joann/ Ensemble) Jada Gloria Austin is a vocalist and actress from Clearwater, Florida. She was most recently seen in American Stage's productions of *School Girls; or the African*

Mean Girls Play (Nana) and *Footloose* (Ensemble/ Urleen Understudy), as well as Disney's *Candlelight Processional*. She is honored to join Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for this amazing production. She would like to thank her family for their continued support.



EMILY BAILEY (Dance Ensemble) is a 20-year-old Florida native who has been dancing in one form or another since she was two years old. She enjoys many styles of dance. Emily has trained

locally with Tracey Vita School of Dance, Tampa Highland Dancers, and Sarasota Contemporary Dance. She also has participated in summer intensives with Joffrey Ballet School. Emily is very grateful for the opportunity to perform with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe.



BRYCE BAYER (Dance Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his WBTT debut! Regional credits include: *American Idiot* and *Footloose* (American Stage Theatre Company), *A Chorus Line* (Laguna

Playhouse, Saint Louis MUNY), *Saturday Night Fever* (Laguna Playhouse), *Kinky Boots* (Suncoast Broadway), and *The Little Mermaid* (Saint Louis MUNY). Bryce also appeared in *The Lost Girl* at the 2021 Florida Festival of New Musicals (Winter

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

CAST AND CREATIVE

Park Playhouse). Millikin University BFA Musical Theatre graduate. Special thanks to Bryce's family, friends, and father. @bbayer7



KYLA BOLLING (Michelle Morris) Kyla Bolling is ecstatic to be in her first production with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe doing one of her favorite shows! Some of her regional credits include *35mm*:

A Musical Exhibition (Woman 1), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal), and *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood). She'd like to thank her family, friends, and the incredible cast and crew. *Sic itur ad astra*.



BRIAN L. BOYD (Curtis Taylor Jr.) 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 *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.), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Ken), and *Motones vs. Jerseys*. Brian's film work includes Co-Pilot, *Bridge To The Other Side*, and the upcoming film *Spare Me*. Brian is the Co-Director of M.A.D. Music Acting Dance Inc. with fellow artist Brentney J., and is the artistic director of his own company, The Enigma Artistic Experience.



JAZZMIN CARSON (Ensemble/ u/s Deena Jones) is delighted to make her debut with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe! Her credits include performances such as *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!



CAILA CARTER* (Deena Jones) is a gifted and sought after performing artist whose talents have taken her all around the world. Her resume boasts work with Hong Kong Disneyland, Norwegian and Oceania Cruise

Lines, and Universal Studios Florida. She has a genuine love for all facets of the arts and has extensive experience working both as a performing and teaching artist for numerous organizations throughout the Central Florida region. Caila is thrilled to be making her debut on the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe stage.



MAYA CUEVAS (Lorrell Robinson) is a New York City based actress and performer. A graduate of The Hartt School of Music, she is so grateful to be making her Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe debut!

Maya's favorite credits include: *Law & Order* (NBC), *Goodspeed Musicals*, *Little Theatre On The Square*, *The Mac-Haydn Theatre*, *Playhouse On Park*, and *ToUch Performance Art*. Maya would like to thank the wonderful folks at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and her friends and family for their constant support and love!



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

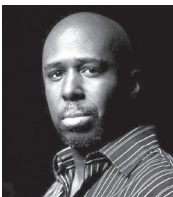
CAST AND CREATIVE

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



DALE HILL (Ensemble) is a Bradenton-born Florida native and resident. He is a full-time dancer, actor, and singer. Dale studied at the top-ranked Manatee School for the Arts and plans to pursue a degree in

musical theatre. He delighted audiences in his WBTT debut show *Broadway in Black*. Dale has been dancing since he was 11 years old and has shared the stage with many performers such as Derric Gobourne Jr., Christopher Eisenberg, Sam Wolfe, Here Comes the Mummies, Ari and the Alabis, and many more. With such a dynamic performance background, it made sense to include musical theatre in his repertoire. That dream has come true, thanks to Nate Jacobs!



MICHAEL KINSEY (Marty) is a professional portrait and headshot photographer. His award-winning photography has been featured in *Inc. Magazine*, *Sarasota Magazine*, *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, and

other publications. Michael's theater work began with this company, working with Nate Jacobs at WBTT's inception as a founding member in 1994. Being a featured performer every season through its first 13 years, Michael has appeared in more than 20 Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe productions. Beyond this stage, Michael has worked with Sarasota's Asolo

Theatre, Florida Studio, and the Urbanite Theatre. Moving forward, Michael plans to achieve his goal of producing projects for film and television.



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

Nativity, *Joyful!*, *Joyful!*, 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* (Jimmy "Thunder" Early) was last featured on WBTT's stage in *Black Nativity* and traveled last summer to North Carolina for WBTT's staging of *Soul Crooners* featuring

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

CAST AND CREATIVE

all corresponding platforms. "You can win as long as you keep your head to the sky."



SHANTEL NORMAN

(u/s Effie White) is a social media influencer, blogger, musician, performer and marketer who is passionate about travel, fashion, style and female empowerment. She is excited to work

with WBTT and is thankful to Nate Jacobs for the opportunity. As a music professional from Lexington, North Carolina but based in Sarasota, Florida, Shantel is always looking for opportunities to develop her technical skills and collaborate with creative professionals. She has already worked on several groundbreaking projects and continues to push herself in stretching her imagination and boundaries. In 2011 Shantel was cast on the ABC network reality show *Karaoke Battle USA*, which was hosted by Joey Fatone (N-Sync). Shantel was the 2nd place finalist as one of the best singers in the USA. Shantel has also sung at the Legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem, NY and came in 2nd place singing Tina Turners "What's Love Got To Do With It." You can now catch Shantel traveling with her well-known band Jah Movement, and sporting their new clothing brand, "Humble Yourself."



MAICY POWELL

(Ensemble/ u/s Lorrell Robinson and Michelle Morris) is a singer/actress born and raised in Sarasota, FL. She has been a member of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe since

2016, where she began as a student in their Stage of Discovery Program until 2018. She appeared in her own Young Artist Showcase at WBTT in 2019, *The Kid is Alright*. She has performed in a number of productions and events and was recently seen in WBTT's holiday show *Black Nativity*. Maicy attended Booker High School where she studied theatre and music in their Visual Performing Arts program. She is trained in a variety of musical genres including opera and classical. Maicy is a recent graduate from Howard University with a Business in Administration Degree BA in Management

and a Minor in Film and Television. Her dream is to pursue a career as a producer to make films that celebrate and uplift the culture of African Americans.



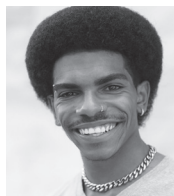
SHENA RENEE* (Effie White) is a classically trained vocalist and actress based out of Atlanta, Georgia. She recently played Church Lady, in *The Color Purple* (City Springs Theatre Company) Off Broadway:

Effie White in *DreamGirls* (Springer Opera House) Diane Hudson in *The Perfect Pastor* (The Cannon Center for the Performing Arts) Tia Davenport in *The Truth About Black Men* (The Koger Center for the Arts), Julia Biggs in *The Preacher's Wife* (Bunche Auditorium), Ensemble in *Black Nativity* (Southwest Arts Center). Film: *Lil and Eve*, *Preaching Lies*. She's not done yet!



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

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



RICKEY TEDESCO

(Ensemble) last appeared on WBTT's stage in *Black Nativity*. He has had lead roles in musicals through State College of Florida. A 22-year-old aspiring entertainer, Rickey has

played trumpet and French horn since high school, continuing French horn through State College of Florida as well as taken lessons for piano, dance, and singing

CAST AND CREATIVE

(done inside and outside of college). After graduating from the State College of Florida, Rickey now plans to perform on cruise ships, gig for quality events and get his bachelor's degree in Musical Theater or Music Production while pursuing a dream to make it to Broadway.

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

DARCI COLLINS (Resident Seamstress) was born and raised in Minnesota. Darci has been working in the theatre industry for 28 years. Upon moving to Florida five years ago, she sought out a position as a seamstress in the local theatres of Sarasota. She has always known this is what she loves to do. Her passion has led her to work in theatres in Boston and Minneapolis. WBTT feels like her family, and she is happy to be an employee in a position she loves.

DOMINIQUE FREEMAN (Wig Designer) Creative, versatile, and passionate about her craft, Dominique Freeman has been able to establish herself as a successful stylist over the past 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.

ARNETTE GERMAN* (Assistant Stage Manager) is no stranger to the WBTT stage. Seen in past WBTT productions and staged readings, including several stagings of *Black Nativity*, Arnette is happy for the opportunity to serve as Assistant Stage Manager for this production. Arnette has been with WBTT for over 15 years and has been utilized in multiple capacities. In addition to performing, Arnette has worked as a stage manager for multiple Young Artists Showcases, and has worked as a stage hand as well. She attended Bethune

Cookman University and graduated with a B.A. in religion and philosophy with a minor in psychology. As of December 2017, Arnette is a content writer for *Bringing Beautiful Back*, an online magazine.

TIANNA HARRIS* (Assistant Stage Manager) stepped into her first role as an assistant stage manager for *Flyin' West!* 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*. She enjoys learning about all the moving parts of theatre and has worked as a stagehand on countless productions. Through her work with the company, Tianna has learned the importance of community outreach, the priceless value of mentorships, and the power of walking in your purpose.

AUSTIN JACOBS (Projection Designer) started his professional career as an Editor's Assistant for Tammy Dele Films in Atlanta, GA. There he gained an interest in writing, while working on building his editing skills. Later, Austin moved back to his hometown in Maryland, and was fortunate to be selected for the Events DC's Strive Internship Program in Washington, DC. At Events DC, Austin worked in the Creative Services department as a writer, editor, and producer of internally-produced media products that promoted Events DC and events at its venues. The projects Austin worked on included the 2021 Truth and Service Classic announcement video. Austin began his undergraduate education at Morehouse University in Atlanta, but transferred to Howard Community when he returned to Maryland. Austin is pursuing a degree in film production.

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 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

CAST AND CREATIVE

with Nate Jacobs and all the amazing people at WBTT.

LIZZI NEHLS* (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited and honored to work with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. In her career, Lizzi has worked on Broadway, Off-Broadway and 10 years at Hippodrome Theatre as their Production Stage Manager. She also toured with *3 Mo' Tenors*, created and directed by Marion Caffey. While living in Gainesville, FL she was the adjunct professor of Stage Management at the University of Florida. Currently she serves as the Production Manager for Booker High School's VPA Program. Lizzi is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association for 23 years.

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

PATRICK RUSSINI (Sound Designer) has worked as a professional sound designer, audio technician and sound engineer since 2012. His audio artistry has showcased the signature sound of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe shows since he joined the staff in 2016 as Sound Engineer; he was recently named Resident Sound Designer for the company. Patrick has traveled three times with WBTT Founder and Artistic Director Nate Jacobs, other troupe performers and production staff to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., ran sound for WBTT's *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.

ETHAN VAIL (Lighting Designer) Credits include: Urbanite Theatre: *At The Wake of A Dead Drag Queen*, Asolo Repertory

Theatre: Grand Horizons, *Fannie: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*, *Camelot*; The Players Centre for the Performing Arts: *Head Over Heels*, *All Shook Up*; Millbrook Playhouse (Mill Hall, Penn.): 65 productions, including the regional premiere of *Fun Home*. He was the 2013 recipient of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology's Young Designers, Managers & Technicians Award, sponsored by Barbizon Lighting Company, for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a production he designed for Purdue University.

JEFFREY WEBER (Scenic Designer) makes a return to the WBTT stage with *Dreamgirls!* 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 Theatre 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 was working as a Theatre Artist in the Philadelphia area for over a decade. Due to Covid-19 layoffs, Kevin found himself moving down to Sarasota to work at Florida Studio Theatre as their Company Manager. Kevin has loved the arts scene here in Sarasota and is ecstatic to be back working in Theatre Production at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe! A graduate of DeSales University (2015) and the Arden Professional Apprenticeship Program (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 the 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!

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2022-2023 SEASON SPONSORS

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Loraine McWilliams	Sherry Warshauer
Jean-Robert & Shirley Michaud	Wanda Williams in Memory of Jerome Davis
Paul McGinn in Memory of Jerome Davis	Andrew Wilcox in Memory of Jerome Davis
	Nancy Wolk
	S. Jerome Zackin

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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