

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS

Flyin' West

BY PEARL CLEAGE DIRECTED BY CHUCK SMITH

Costume Designer
Kenji Trujillo

Wig Designer
Dominique Freeman

Fight & Intimacy
Choreographer
Diego Villada

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Set Designers
Donna & Mark Buckalter

Production Manager
Kevin White

Production Stage Manager
Victoria Flounders*

Assistant Stage Manager
Amber Myers

Lighting Designer
Michael Pasquini

Sound Designer
Patrick Russini

Assistant Director
Travis Ray

Director
Chuck Smith*

January 4-February 12, 2023

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York



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



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

Fannie Dove	Ariel Blue
Sophie Washington	Renata Eastlick*
Miss Leah.....	Sieglinda Fox
Minnie Dove Charles	Carmi Harris*
Wil Parish	Michael Knowles
Frank Charles.....	Donovan Whitney*

*Setting: The action takes place in the all black town of
Nicodemus, Kansas in the 1890s.*

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

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

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

WBTT TEAM

Founder & Artistic Director.....	Nate Jacobs
Executive Director	Julie Leach
Development Associate.....	Regina Belvin
Artist Relations Associate & Assistant Box Office Manager.....	Ariel Blue
Resident Property Artisan Manager	Annette Breazeale
Stage Hands.....	Tianna Harris, Kiamani Kanady
Resident Seamstress.....	Darci Collins
Properties Intern.....	Jayde Dauley
Development Director.....	Debra Flynt-Garrett
Resident Choreographer.....	Donald Frison
Receptionist & Box Office Associate/Stage Hand	Annette German
Finance Manager.....	Robert Grant
Marketing And Communications Director.....	Beth Graves
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
Associate Managing Director	Travis Ray
Resident Sound Designer	Patrick Russini
Technical Director	Shane Streight
Education Director & Artistic Associate.....	Jim Weaver
Production Manager	Kevin White
Assistant to the Artistic Director	Donovan Whitney
Photography	Sorcha Augustine
Marketing Consultant	Scott Ferguson
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

Pearl Cleage's *Flyin' West* is one of my favorite plays. First and foremost it is a solid, well-written drama, but also it informs us of a movement in American history not usually spoken of—the westward expansion movement of African Americans following the Civil War. This play not only introduces us to Nicodemus, Kansas, one of the original Black settlement towns, but also to the enormous role the African American female played in making it all happen. As a life-long fan of westerns and Blacks in the west, I knew about and have visited Nicodemus, Kansas, but I knew nothing of the Black female homesteader until first reading this play. Thanks, Pearl!

—**Chuck Smith**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have enjoyed the process of being Assistant Director for *Flyin' West*. I directed the staged reading of this production almost three years ago here at WBTT and fell in love with this story. This artistic opportunity has allowed me to be in a director's master class under Chuck Smith on a weekly basis. This show is one where we have guided these actors to tell a story of African American women on the frontier who have decided to pack up their lives and start their own community in Nicodemus, Kansas. I am amazed how this story parallels where our people are today and how it mirrors what is happening in my own life. The pandemic has caused a major shift in how a lot of people of color see themselves, how we have started to honor our ancestors and value our worth more. I will ask that you be open to experience this production and allow the words to take you on our journey. Welcome to Nicodemus!

—**Travis Ray**

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Pearl Cleage (b. December 7, 1948) is an award winning playwright, author, and activist based in Atlanta, Georgia. Much of her work celebrates and honors the experience of black women. Her first novel *What Looks Like Crazy on An Ordinary Day* landed on Oprah's Book Club list in 1998 and stayed on the *New York Times* Best Seller List for nine weeks. She has won numerous awards for her work including a Governor's Award for Arts and Humanities and a Bronze Jubilee Award for Literature in 1983.

She was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, but grew up in Detroit where her father was a pastor and activist in the Civil Rights Movement. She attended Howard University and Spelman College and in 1971, graduated with a degree in drama. She later joined the faculty of Spelman as a creative director, playwright in residence, and writer. She is currently the Playwright in Residence at the Alliance Theatre and at the Just Us Theater Company in Atlanta.

CAST AND CREATIVE



CHUCK SMITH*

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

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

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



TRAVIS RAY* (Assistant Director) earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Performance from Alabama State University. He continued his professional actor training at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre

and Film and also holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Management/Arts Administration from The University of Alabama. Travis has worked for 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. Travis is a member of Actors' Equity Association, Theatre Communications Group, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He recently taught Acting 1 at New College of Florida and he owns a handcrafted

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

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

CAST AND CREATIVE

bow tie and accessories brand called Dapper Bowtique. Follow his brand on your favorite social media platform by searching @dapperbowtique or visit his website at www.dapperbowtique.com.



ARIEL BLUE (Fannie Dove) a well-known member of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, was recently featured in *The Know Women* (Sarasota) magazine, and was last seen in WBTT's *Black Nativity*.

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 / IG: @simplyarielblue.



RENATA EASTLICK* (Sophie Washington) is a multilingual actor and voiceover artist. She is best known for voicing 'Caveira' in the hit UBISOFT video game *Rainbow Six: Siege*. Upon receiving

her BFA from the University of Florida's New World School of the Arts, Renata worked extensively in theatre, voiceover, film, television, and commercials. As an actor, Renata performs nationally and internationally, using her Portuguese, Spanish, and English language skills. Some

of her theatrical credits include Off-Broadway/New York Theatre: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When the Rainbow Is Enuf* (The Public Theatre - NYC); *AZUL* (NAMT Festival - NYC) Regional Theatre: *Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too, August Wilson)* (Orlando Shakes); *Dream Hou\$e* (Long Wharf Theatre & Baltimore Center Stage); *7 Deadly Sins* (Miami New Drama - 2021 Drama League Award Winner); *Letters to Kamala* (American Stage); *Pipeline, In the Heights and Rockin' Down Fairytale Lane* (WBTT); *The Nutcracker* (House Theatre of Chicago); *Flying* (Tampa Rep); *The Royale* (Hippodrome Theatre); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Oldcastle Theatre); *Ruined* (GableStage); *Eclipsed* (Women's Theatre Project); *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Ground Up and Rising) among many others. FILM: *God's Waiting Room* (Tribeca 2021 Official Selection); *Tournament of Champions* (Ubisoft CGI short) TV: "Burn Notice," "Mad Dogs," and "Magic City." Renata is a two-time Carbonell Award Nominee, a Theatre Tampa Bay and Silver Palm Award recipient, and a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity Association. www.renataeastlick.com



SIEGLINDA FOX (Miss Leah) is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. She started singing even before she could speak words! She began singing in the church choir at the age of 9 and acting in plays

and skits at 11. She was a member of The Sumner Acapella choir and drama club at Charles Sumner High School, the oldest black high school west of the Mississippi. Sieglinda appeared at WBTT in *The Amen Corner*, *Raisin* and *Ruby*. She played a gospel singer in the 2013 movie *Cronies* (A Spike Lee Production). She has performed in St. Louis at Powell Symphony Hall, The Fox Theatre, The Grandel and America's Center; as well as theatres in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Arkansas, South Carolina and Georgia. She headlined her first show in 2017, *The Soul Train*, performing songs of life, love, and happiness and continues to have one big performance every year! She launched her own company, Soulful Sounds Entertainment (A Company of Talented Artists) in 2018. Sieglinda is a stage four

CAST AND CREATIVE

Hodgkin's Lymphoma cancer survivor and has been cancer-free since 2016! She would like to thank WBTT for another opportunity to use her gifts and talents to bring another wonderful character to life! And last but certainly not least, she wants to thank her mother for being the best Mommy/Fan a girl could have!



CARMI HARRIS* (Minnie Dove Charles) last appeared in Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's *Motown Christmas* and *The Sam Cooke Story*. She has performed in several other musicals and plays including

The Wiz, *Roe*, *Beehive: The Musical*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and more. Carmi has also performed in several cabarets at venues including NYC favorites "Feinstein's/ 54 Below", "Birdland", "Green Room 42" and more. The vocalist, actor and model has also appeared in several short films, commercials and on national networks including PBS, BET, CBN, HSN and more. In 2016, Carmi debuted her first self-written & co-produced solo show *Carmi's Playlist* at "The Space at 2106." Her motto is to inspire; to share love & to serve with love through her art. Carmi is excited to be back on her home stage at WBTT in an inspiring role. "And I am all the things I have ever loved."—Toni Morrison. Stay connected www.carmiharris.net & on Instagram @carmi_harris.



MICHAEL KNOWLES (Wil Parish/Fight Captain) was born on November 4, 1988 in Atlanta, Ga. Knowles is a graduate of Savannah State University (Savannah, GA) with a BA in Marine

Science/Technology (certified scuba diver) and minor in Theatre (Fall 2012). In the theatrical world, not only is he an international/published model (14yrs), Knowles has performed in numerous plays for over 16 years; to name a few: Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* (The Creature), *Into The Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), August Wilson's *Jitney* (Becker), *MidWinter Nights Dream* (Oberon), and *The Great Gatsby* (Gatsby) He is former charter member of the Collective Face Theatre Ensemble in

Savannah; under the direction of David I. L. Poole; as well as being a former stagehand at The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. Knowles has written/directed/produced short films (5yrs) such as: *Keep Going*, *Our Deaths Made You Free*, *The Raven*, *Fed Up*, *Prayer Of Redemption*, *Eternal Faith*, *A Time To Forgive* and *A Duke's Passion*, as well as acted in other films such as: *The Assistant*, *The Tripsitter*, and *Blinded By the Bag*. Knowles partook in the The Breakin Through Acting Seminars in Los Angeles, CA under the direction of Choice Skinner; Knowles has performed in TV shows/movies such as *MacGyver*, *The Resident*, *Dynasty*, *Coming 2 America*, *Respect*, *Black Panther 2*; Knowles also performed classical arias under the direction of Heidi Bindhammer (Savannah State University), participated in the Harrower Opera Program (2014) as well as studied opera/music history at Georgia State University and Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA) under the direction of Dr. David Morrow. Knowles is a member of the Trey Clegg Singers (Tenor 2; Countertenor), and an African Contemporary dancer and has performed in numerous events. Knowles is now a 3-Time Award Winner for Best Actor in Stage and Film; and is a prime ambassador and C.E.O. of his own artistic design brand "S.C.O.R.P.I.O." Knowles has modeled in New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas Fashion Week; and he recently modeled and danced in the Le Mans Fashion Show in Le Mans, France; also working on new music, creating new short/featured films and has promising opportunities in future SAG/Equity projects. This is his first play at WBTT and he is honored to be a part of an amazing cast!



DONOVAN WHITNEY* (Frank Charles)

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

as a teaching artist (Acting) for WBTT's summer educational program Stage of Discovery. Recent WBTT credits include: The Narrator in *Black Nativity*; Omari in *Pipeline*; The Narrator in *Joyful! Joyfull!*; and Ensemble in *Jazzlinks* (Education Touring). Other Florida theatre credits

CAST AND CREATIVE

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.

ANNETTE BREAZEAL (Resident Property Artisan Manager) 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.

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.

VICTORIA FLOUNDERS* (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to join WBTT and is honored to work on this inspiring show. Victoria completed an artistic apprenticeship at Urbanite Theatre, where she worked as an ASM and actress in their production of *Athena*. Victoria has been on full scholarship with the SCF Theatre program for the past three semesters and served in their work study program. Her experiences include stage management, assistant directing, set construction, and performance in several shows. Victoria recently graduated with honors from the State College of Florida with her Associate of Arts and is a member of Delta Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society.

DOMINIQUE FREEMAN (Wig Designer) is 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.

AMBER MYERS (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Sarasota/Bradenton native and no stranger to the stage. The 27 year old actress/singer was bitten by the stage bug at 5 years old. She received training from Nate Jacobs, Florida Studio Theater, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, and State College of Florida. She has been in productions such as *Joyful, Joyful!* with WBTT and *West Side Story* as Rosilia at SCF. She was recently seen in WBTT's production of *Black Nativity*. Her passion is musical theater, and one of her goals is to expose children to the joy, freedom and self confidence that theater brings.

MICHAEL PASQUINI (Lighting Designer) Recent WBTT designs include *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

CAST AND CREATIVE

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.

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 '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.

KENJI TRUJILLO (Costume Designer) Kenji is thrilled to be a part of the WBTT! As a proud graduate of Florida State University's film program and native Sarasotan accustomed to designing glitz costumes for both Sailor Circus and Flying High Circus, Kenji loves the challenge of creating designs for the intimacy and honesty of stage productions. She has been State College of Florida's resident costume designer for the past 5 years. While enjoying life with her three children and husband, she still finds the time to act in area plays and play in the circus at The Circus Connection. Kenji is also employed at Ave Maria Prep School in teaching special needs children in middle school and high school classical literature, theater arts and circus arts.

DIEGO VILLADA (Fight and Intimacy Choreographer) is a theatre artist and scholar that resides in Sarasota, FL. He directs shows, choreographs scenes of violence and intimacy, coaches movement, and is an Equity actor. He has taught, performed, directed, and choreographed with: Hostos Repertory Theatre (NYC), Nuyorican Poets Cafe (NYC), 3-Legged Dog Media & Theatre Group (NYC), Gallery Players (NYC), Chautauqua Theater Company (NY-State), New Prospectives Theatre Company (NYC), as well as M Ensemble (Miami, FL), Urbanite Theatre (Sarasota, FL), The Barksdale Theater (Richmond, VA), & The Conciliation Project (Richmond, VA). Diego teaches the next generation of artists as an assistant professor at New College of Florida.

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 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!

2022-2023 SEASON SPONSORS

Thank you to our family of donors for supporting WBTT's 2022-2023 Season.
Includes Visionary Circle Donors, Production Sponsors, and Event Sponsors
Contributions received between Nov. 30, 2022 and Dec. 15, 2022 (Donors who contributed between Jan. 1, 2022 and Nov. 29, 2022 are listed in our season payroll.)

*Denotes 5 years or more of continuous support

FOUNDERS | \$50,000

Enthusiastic Friends of WBTT*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS | \$10,000-\$19,999

Brian & Caroline Ellerson

PLAYWRIGHTS | \$5,000-\$9,999

Appleby Charitable Trust*

Carole & Gary Booher*

Alison & Howard Madsen* in Memory of Marvin Albert

DIRECTORS | \$2,500-\$4,999

Geraldine Sanders

Antoinette Sijatz*

CHOREOGRAPHERS | \$1,000-\$2,499

Roz Goldberg*

David & Lucie Lapovsky*

The Katharina & Joseph Schober Foundation

Renee Stevens

Chryssa Westerlund in Memory of Jerome Davis

Designers | \$500-\$999

William & Helen Covington

Wiley & Fran Osborn*

Elaine & Fred Panitz

Rebecca van der Bogert

STAGE HANDS | \$35-\$499

Pamela Akins Gerald Nehra

Elizabeth Allen Paul Nylen in Memory of Jerome Davis

Jewel Belle in Memory of Jerome Davis Henry LeBaron Preston

Karen Berk in Honor of Steven Krause David Rush in Memory of Jerome Davis

& Jim LaPorte Robin Sathan in Honor of

Gail Chase Steven Kalt & Rob Heeren

Steven & Arlene Cohen Philip Shotwell in Memory of

Shirley Good Jerome Davis

Kathleen Hogg in Memory of James Suh in Memory of

Jerome Davis Jerome Davis

Jean-Robert & Shirley Michaud Joan Sussman

OUR MISSION

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe was founded in December 1999 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to produce professional theatre that promotes and celebrates African American history and experience, engages a broad base of patrons and audiences, supports the development of a dynamic group of aspiring artists and builds self-esteem in youth of color.

Tax-deductible gifts from generous individuals, businesses, and foundations underwrite WBTT's annual operating budget. Your support helps to keep tickets affordable and provides funds to mentor new local talent and to develop high-quality productions. In addition, your gifts allow us to offer theatre experiences to an underserved population.

Thank you!

The Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe of Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Federal Tax ID# 65-1040662. "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE." REGISTRATION NO. CH17803

**WESTCOAST
BLACK
THEATRE
TROUPE**

WBTT THEATRE

1012 N. Orange Ave.
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Visit us online at:
WESTCOASTBLACKTHEATRE.ORG
941-366-1505