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WELCOME

FROM GRETCHEN FEYER

Welcome!

Our 2022/2023 season kicks off with the triumphant return of the Broadway blockbuster **DISNEY'S THE LION KING!** We couldn't have asked for a more magical way to open our sensational season. More than 20 million theatergoers have seen the North American touring productions of **DISNEY'S THE LION KING.** Having already played more than 90 cities across North America, **DISNEY'S THE LION KING** now proudly returns to San Jose.

Now you can create your own **MINI SEASON SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE** with four or more shows from the season. If you're not yet a subscriber, you can turn tonight's ticket into a mini package! I'm happy to introduce three new special events for our 2022/23 season: **BLUEY'S BIG PLAY (February 3-5, 2023), OUR PLANET LIVE IN CONCERT (March 3, 2023),** and **RIVERDANCE 25th ANNIVERSARY TOUR (May 12-14, 2023).** Stop by the Subscription Table in the lobby to learn more and get a free chocolate sponsored by our partner, San Jose Candy Kitchen, while supplies last!

Don't forget to download the Broadway San Jose APP. Now mobile ticketing is made easy; learn more about our Dining Partners, easy access to prepaid parking with our partnership with ParkWhiz, and more! Download your free Broadway San Jose APP today.

As a proud member of the vibrant Downtown San Jose Community, Broadway San Jose is committed to supporting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or people of color) businesses. We are thrilled that **JACKIE'S PLACE**, a woman-led, family-run, and black-owned restaurant creating history as Silicon Valley's only soul food and BBQ in a 30-mile radius, has joined us as our Community Partner during **DISNEY'S THE LION KING.** To learn more about them, please visit www.jackiesplacesj.com.

Enjoy!

Gretchen Feyer

General Manager | gfeyer@broadwaysanjose.com



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Disney PRESENTS

THE LION KING

Music & Lyrics by

ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE

Additional Music & Lyrics by

LEBO M, MARK MANCINA, JAY RIFKIN, JULIE TAYMOR, HANS ZIMMER

Book by

ROGER ALLERS & IRENE MECCHI

Starring

SPENCER PLACHY GERALD RAMSEY GUGWANA DLAMINI

TONY FREEMAN JÜRGEN HOOPER JOHN E. BRADY

DARIAN SANDERS KAYLA CYPHERS

FOREST VANDYKE MARTINA SYKES ROBBIE SWIFT

SCARLETT LONDON DIVINEY JAYLEN LYNDON HUNTER JORDAN PENDLETON FARRAH WILSON

DEREK ADAMS KAYLA ROSE AIMABLE WILLIAM JOHN AUSTIN IMAN AYANA ISAIAH BAILEY

SAMANTHA LAUREN BARRIENTO ERIC BEAN, JR. TYNIA RENÉ BRANDON LAYLA BRENT CHRISTIN BYRDSONG

SASHA CAICEDO THEMBELIHLE CELE ADRIANNE CHU LEROY CHURCH DANIELA COBB LYRIC DANAE MARQUIS FLOYD

MUKELISIWE GOBA MARQUISE HITCHCOCK JANE KING GABISILE MANANA CHRISTOPHER L. MCKENZIE, JR.

JUSTIN MENSAH PHYLCIA PEARL MPASI NHLANHLA NDLOVU AARON NELSON JEREMY NOEL SICELO NTSHANGASE

SAYIGA EUGENE PEABODY YAEL PINEDA-HALL CHRISTOPHER SAMS T. SHYVONNE STEWART JENNIFER THERIOT

COURTNEY THOMAS THOM CHRISTOPHER WARREN DIAMOND ESSENCE WHITE SHERMAN WOOD

Adapted from the screenplay by

IRENE MECCHI & JONATHAN ROBERTS & LINDA WOOLVERTON

Produced by

PETER SCHNEIDER & THOMAS SCHUMACHER

Scenic Design

RICHARD HUDSON

Costume Design

JULIE TAYMOR

Lighting Design

DONALD HOLDER

Mask & Puppet Design

**JULIE TAYMOR
& MICHAEL CURRY**

Sound Design

STEVE CANYON KENNEDY

Hair & Makeup Design

MICHAEL WARD

Music Supervisor

CLEMENT ISHMAEL

Associate Director

ANTHONY LYN

Associate Choreographer

MAREY GRIFFITH

General Manager

THOMAS SCHLENK

Technical Director

PATRICK EVISTON

Production Stage Manager

**BRIAN
WESTMORELAND**

Production Supervisor

**LISA DAWN
CAVE**

Music Director

KARL SHYMANOVITZ

Associate Music Producer

ROBERT ELHAI

Music Coordinator

MICHAEL KELLER

Fight Director

RICK SORDELET

*Music Produced for the
Stage & Additional
Score by*

MARK MANCINA

*Additional Vocal Score,
Vocal Arrangements
& Choral Director*

LEBO M

Orchestrators

**ROBERT ELHAI
DAVID METZGER**

Casting

**BINDER CASTING/
MARK BRANDON, CSA**

Co-Producer

ANNE QUART

Choreography by

GARTH FAGAN

Directed by

JULIE TAYMOR

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

RAFIKI	Gugwana Dlamini
MUFASA	Gerald Ramsey
SARABI	Diamond Essence White
ZAZU	Jürgen Hooper
SCAR	Spencer Plachy
YOUNG SIMBA (at certain performances)	Jaylen Lyndon Hunter, Jordan Pendleton
YOUNG NALA (at certain performances)	Scarlett London Diviney, Farrah Wilson
SHENZI	Martina Sykes
BANZAI	Forest VanDyke
ED	Robbie Swift
TIMON	Tony Freeman
PUMBAA	John E. Brady
SIMBA	Darian Sanders
NALA	Kayla Cyphers
ENSEMBLE SINGERS	Derek Adams, Isaiah Bailey, TyNia René Brandon, Thembelihle Cele, Daniela Cobb, Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel, Sicelo Ntshangase, Christopher Sams, Diamond Essence White
ENSEMBLE DANCERS	Iman Ayana, Samantha Lauren Barriento, Layla Brent, Sasha Caicedo, Adrienne Chu, Marquis Floyd, Marquise Hitchcock, Jane King, Sayiga Eugene Peabody, Courtney Thomas, Sherman Wood
STANDBYS	SCAR: William John Austin, Thom Christopher Warren; ZAZU: Thom Christopher Warren; TIMON: Thom Christopher Warren; PUMBAA: William John Austin, Thom Christopher Warren

UNDERSTUDIES

(Understudies never substitute for listed players unless announced at the time of the performance)

Rafiki—Thembelihle Cele, Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Yael Pineda-Hall;

Mufasa—Isaiah Bailey, Aaron Nelson, Christopher Sams;

Sarabi—TyNia René Brandon, Daniela Cobb, Phylicia Pearl Mpsi, Yael Pineda-Hall, T. Shyvonne Stewart, Jennifer Theriot;

Zazu—Robbie Swift; *Scar*—Aaron Nelson; *Shenzi*—TyNia René Brandon, Daniela Cobb, Phylicia Pearl Mpsi,

T. Shyvonne Stewart, Jennifer Theriot; *Banzai*—Derek Adams, Justin Mensah, Nhlanhla Ndlovu;

Ed—Eric Bean, Jr., Leroy Church, Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr., Courtney Thomas;

Timon—Robbie Swift; *Pumbaa*—Robbie Swift; *Simba*—Christin Byrdsong, Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel;

Nala—TyNia René Brandon, Thembelihle Cele, Jennifer Theriot, Diamond Essence White

SWINGS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Eric Bean, Jr., Christin Byrdsong, Leroy Church, Lyric Danae, Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr.,

Justin Mensah, Phylicia Pearl Mpsi, Yael Pineda-Hall, T. Shyvonne Stewart, Jennifer Theriot

DANCE CAPTAINS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Christopher L. Mc Kenzie, Jr.

SPECIALTIES

Circle of Life Vocals—Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Sicelo Ntshangase; *Mouse Shadow Puppet*—Sicelo Ntshangase;

Ant Hill Lady—Jane King; *Guinea Fowl*—Marquis Floyd; *Buzzard Pole*—Marquise Hitchcock; *Gazelle Wheel*—Adrienne Chu;

Gazelles—Marquis Floyd, Sherman Wood; *Lioness Chant Vocal*—Sicelo Ntshangase; *Acrobatic Trickster*—

Sayiga Eugene Peabody; *Giraffe Shadow Puppets*—Isaiah Bailey, Jeremy Noel; *Cheetah*—Sasha Caicedo; *Stilt Giraffe*—

Courtney Thomas; *Scar Shadow Puppet*—Isaiah Bailey, Jeremy Noel, Christopher Sams; *Simba Shadow Puppet*—Derek Adams,

Aaron Nelson, Sicelo Ntshangase; *One By One Vocal*—Mukelisiwe Goba, Sicelo Ntshangase; *One By One Dance*—

Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Christopher Sams; *Fireflies*—Jane King; *Pumbaa Pole Puppet*—Marquise Hitchcock; *Nala Pole Puppet*—

Sasha Caicedo; *Lioness/Hyena Shadow Puppets*—TyNia René Brandon, Thembelihle Cele, Daniela Cobb,

Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Nhlanhla Ndlovu.

Thembelihle Cele, Gugwana Dlamini, Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, and Sicelo Ntshangase are appearing with the permission of Actors' Equity Association.

ORCHESTRA

Conductor—Karl Shymanovitz

Associate Conductor—Paul McCaffrey

Keyboard 1—Eric Banitt; *Keyboard 2*—Andy Grobengeiser;

Guitar—Robert Tye; *Bass*—Michael Brown; *Drums*—Phil Martin; *Marimba*—Mike Fauce;

Percussion—Dave Mancuso, Reuven Weizberg; *Flutes*—Darlene Drew; *French Horn*—Tim Riley.

Music Coordinator—Michael Keller

Based on the Disney film

THE LION KING

Directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff; Produced by Don Hahn

Special thanks to all the artists and staff of Walt Disney Feature Animation

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Pride Rock “Circle of Life” with “Nants’ Ingonyama”	Rafiki, Ensemble
Scene 2	Scar’s Cave	
Scene 3	Rafiki’s Tree	
Scene 4	The Pridelands	
Scene 5	Scar’s Cave	
Scene 6	The Pridelands “I Just Can’t Wait to Be King”	Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble
Scene 7	Elephant Graveyard “Chow Down”	Shenzi, Banzai, Ed
Scene 8	Under the Stars “They Live in You”	Mufasa, Ensemble
Scene 9	Elephant Graveyard “Be Prepared”	Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Ensemble
Scene 10	The Gorge	
Scene 11	Pride Rock “Be Prepared” (Reprise) “Nao Tse Tsa”	Scar, Ensemble Rafiki, Sarabi, Young Nala
Scene 12	Rafiki’s Tree	
Scene 13	The Desert/The Jungle “Hakuna Matata”	Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Simba, Ensemble

ACT TWO

Entr’acte	“One by One”	Ensemble
Scene 1	Scar’s Cave “The Madness of King Scar”	Scar, Zazu, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed, Nala
Scene 2	The Pridelands “Shadowland”	Nala, Rafiki, Ensemble
Scene 3	The Jungle	
Scene 4	Under the Stars “Endless Night”	Simba, Ensemble
Scene 5	Rafiki’s Tree	
Scene 6	The Jungle “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” “He Lives in You” (Reprise)	Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble Rafiki, Simba, Ensemble
Scene 7	Pride Rock “King of Pride Rock”/“Circle of Life” (Reprise)	Ensemble

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

SONG CREDITS

All songs by Elton John (music) and Tim Rice (lyrics) except as follows:

“**Circle of Life**”: by Elton John (music) and Tim Rice (lyrics) with “**Nants’ Ingonyama**”: by Hans Zimmer and Lebo M; “**He Lives in You**” (“**They Live in You**”): Music and lyrics by Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Lebo M; “**Nao Tse Tsa**”: Music and lyrics by Jacques Loubelo; “**One by One**”: Music and lyrics by Lebo M; “**Shadowland**”: Music by Lebo M and Hans Zimmer, lyrics by Mark Mancina and Lebo M; “**Endless Night**”: Music by Lebo M, Hans Zimmer, and Jay Rifkin, lyrics by Julie Taymor; “**King of Pride Rock**”: Music by Hans Zimmer, lyrics by Lebo M

ADDITIONAL SCORE

Grasslands chant and Lioness chant by Lebo M; Rafiki’s chants by Tsidii Le Loka.



WARNING

The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside the theatre, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Offenders may be ejected and liable for damages and other lawful remedies.

Disney PRESENTS
THE
LION KING

Disney Theatrical Productions welcomes
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With our partners at this theatre, we
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inclusive place, where everyone feels
they belong, are respected and free
from discrimination.

Disney
THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

SPENCER PLACHY (*Scar*) Broadway: *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Off-Broadway: *The Common Pursuit*. Tours: *Oklahoma!* (Curly), *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'N' Roll* at The Alley Theatre, *Private Lives* at Riverside Theatre, *Julius Caesar* (Antony) at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, *National Pastime* at Bucks County Playhouse. *The 39 Steps* at Orlando Shakespeare Theater/Florida Rep. TV: "Shades of Blue" (NBC). Love to my beautiful wife, Laura!

GERALD RAMSEY (*Mufasa*) is grateful to continue this journey across the continent with *The Lion King*. Born in Tacoma, Washington – Raised in Anuu'u, American Samoa and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Credits: *My Name Is Gary Cooper* at Kumu Kahua Theatre. *Ha* – *The Breath of Life*, *Rainbows of Paradise*, *The Ali'i Luau* at The Polynesian Cultural Center. *Tupulaga O Samoa Mo A Taaao* at The Merrie Monarch Festival. Ever thankful for the support of friends and especially the love of my aiga. Honored to represent the pride that has come before us. Fa'atuatua - Fa'amoemoe - Alofa IG: @ramsey.gt

GUGWANA DLAMINI (*Rafiki*) From Durban, South Africa, Dlamini trained at Committed Artists Academy. Theater credits include Disney's *The Lion King* (London, UK tour, Singapore, North American tour), *Sarafina*; *Township Fever*; *Unity in Diversity* (South Africa). Television: "Generations: The Legacy" (South Africa). Film: *Sarafina!* Dlamini can be heard on the original Disney movie soundtracks of *The Lion King* and *Dinosaur* and also appeared in the BBC Radio play *Dear Mr. Lampard*, alongside various South African artists. She has also performed with Lucky Dube and Vusi Mahlasela, Bayete, Sankomota and Victor Ntoni.

TONY FREEMAN (*Timon*) played Zazu on Broadway and across the country for over 3,000 performances and has also played Scar and Pumbaa. Now he loves getting to play Timon. He did Tony Kushner's musical *Caroline, or Change* in Los Angeles and San Francisco with the original Broadway cast. Tony performed guest roles on "Law and Order" (twice) and "Law and Order, SVU."

JÜRGEN HOOPER (*Zazu*). Broadway: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Chicago: Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Writers Theatre, Court Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, American Theatre Company, and Circle Theatre. Regional: Indiana Rep., Milwaukee Rep., Arden Theatre, and New Theatre. Film/TV: "Chicago Med," "Chicago Fire," "Crisis," "Suits," and the film *Game Day*. Love to Blair, Charlie and Madeline.

JOHN E. BRADY (*Pumbaa*). Brady is excited to be

back in the Pridelands having performed Timon, Pumbaa, and Zazu on Broadway. He also appeared in the original cast and film of *NEWSIES* the Musical. He has performed in every venue you can imagine and done over a hundred radio commercials and just as many TV commercials. His favorite role? Dad.

DARIAN SANDERS (*Simba*) has trained as a musician – voice, trumpet – from an early age, touring with international music groups; chaplain with UofL-FCA; worship pastor with regional ministries; regional credits: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), *Songs For A New World* (Man One), *Hairspray* (Seaweed). Glory to Jesus Christ and endless love to Jessica/Titus (wife/son), family, friends, Binder Casting, cast & crew, and Peggy@TheSquarePegGroup, Inc. IG/Twitter: @_DarianSanders_; www.dariansanders.com

KAYLA CYPHERS (*Nala*) is a Southern California native who attained her BFA from AMDA LA and has previously appeared in *Bat Out Of Hell* The North American Tour/New York Engagement and *Aida* at the John W. Engeman Theater (Aida). She is thankful to God, and she is endlessly grateful for the support of her husband, Ken, and her family and friends. Matthew 17:20. Instagram: @kayladneely

FOREST VANDYKE (*Banzai*) is thrilled to be making his *Lion King* debut! Off – Broadway: *Dog Man: The Musical* (George/Chief, Lucille Lortel Theatre), *Cadaver Synod* (Pope Formosus, Playwrights Horizon). Regional: *Mystic Pizza: A New Musical* (Lionel Hampton, Ogunquit Playhouse), *Choir Boy* (David, Marin Theatre Company), *Goddess* (Mosi, Eugene O'Neill Theater). "I want to thank my parents who are my biggest cheerleaders!!"

MARTINA SYKES (*Shenzi*) is elated to be joining the Pridelands! Native of St. Petersburg, Fla. and graduate of the University of Florida. Favorite credits: *Motown The Musical* (Broadway and First National Tour), *Raindogs*, *Rent* and *Hairspray*. I would like to thank God, my family and friends for their unconditional love and support. Ephesians 3:20. Instagram: Ladysykes1 www.theeARTmission.org

ROBBIE SWIFT (*Ed*, *Understudy Pumbaa*, *Timon & Zazu*) is honored and excited to return to *The Lion King* family. Stage credits include *Snoopy!*, *Rumbles*, *One Red Flower*, *Water Children*, *Our Town*, *Godspell*. Film/Television: *On The Run* (Hyperboy), "Fastlane" (Fox), "Urban Graffiti" (Fox), "Scrubs" (NBC). Many thanks to God, Mom, Dad, The Starting Five, Family and Friends. Special thanks to Barry, Karen and Lois Yvonne. Robbie is a proud member of AEA, SAG and ASCAP. I dedicate this show to my beautiful wife, Lisa. You are my heart, my life, and my inspiration. Thanks for marrying me.

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

SCARLETT LONDON DIVINEY (*Young Nala at certain performances*) Broadway National Tour debut! Film: *Cupids* (Tribeca Film Festival), Scarlett has appeared locally in *Annie*, *Fame Jr.*, and with Dionne Warwick at the BPAC Gala. Thank you Disney Theatricals, Binder Casting, Mara Entertainment, CESD, Amelia Demayo, Janine Molinari, Nic Cory, Michael Herwitz, my parents and brother Hudson. Follow on instagram @scarlettln dn

FARRAH WILSON (*Young Nala at certain performances*) An 11 year-old New York native, Farrah is beyond thrilled to be making her debut performance on tour with Disney's *The Lion King*. Farrah would like to thank her mom, dad, tia, tio, Mami, and the rest of her family for their constant support. Always Dream Big! IG: @farrah.o

JAYLEN LYNDON HUNTER (*Young Simba at certain performances*) Born in Granada, Spain, Jaylen lives in Memphis, TN and is a student at Evangelical Christian School. Jaylen has been featured in Young Actors Guild (YAG): *The Jungle Book*, *Fame Jr.*, *Disney's The Lion King, Jr.* (as Young Simba), *The Wiz* and *Tribute to Michael Jackson with Love*. @JaylenLyndonHunter

JORDAN PENDLETON (*Young Simba at certain performances*) A 10-year-old from Richmond, VA, Jordan is excited to make his Broadway tour debut in *The Lion King*! He thanks his family, Nicole Pearson, Schehe Quiroga, Laura Mehl, Mallory Keene, Tyrick Jones, and his teachers and friends at Mary Munford ES and JCC for their love and support. Follow on instagram @jordan_d_pendleton

DEREK ADAMS (*Ensemble, Understudy Banzai*) is originally from Connecticut, and is thrilled to be joining the cast of *The Lion King*. Favorite credits include starring in *VEGAS! The Show* at Planet Hollywood Las Vegas. Regional: *Sister Act*, *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and the world premiere of Disney's *When You Wish*. @derekadamsmusic

KAYLA ROSE AIMABLE (*Swing, Dance Captain*). Glory! Theater: *The Wiz*, Arkansas Repertory, *The Color Purple*, West Coast Black Theater Troupe, *Hairspray*, Royal Caribbean. She would like to Thank God, family, and mentors for all of their love and support. Psalm 23.

WILLIAM JOHN AUSTIN (*Standby Scar & Pumbaa*). New York Theatre: *Measure for Measure*, *On the Verge*. Regional: Trinity Rep, Hartford Stage. MFA: Brown/Trinity Rep. Voice over artist: Nigel the Xyzal owl. WilliamJohnAustin.com

IMAN AYANA (*Ensemble*) A dream to be joining the Pridelands! Training: The Ailey School, BFA: Florida State. Favorite credits: The Met Gala, *After Midnight*

(NCL), *Oklahoma!* (DCPA), *The Music Man* (Good-speed). Commercial: Fujifilm, Shea Moisture, Toyota, Con Edison. Love to my family & friends. @iman.ayana

ISIAH BAILEY (*Ensemble, Understudy Mufasa*) is excited to be a part of the Pridelands! Special thanks to God, the entire LK family, his family, friends, and supporters. Credits can be found at www.isiahbailey.com . "You are abundantly loved." @sangsisaiah

SAMANTHA LAUREN BARRIENTO (*Ensemble*). Since graduating from the Ailey Fordham BFA program, Samantha has danced for Ailey II and many other productions in NYC. She most recently danced with Step One Dance Company of Holland America Cruises. @samantha_barriento

ERIC BEAN, JR. (*Swing, Understudy Ed*) Originally from Bermuda, Eric attended the University of the Arts (Phila. PA) where he received his BFA in Dance Education & Choreography. A finalist in the Philadelphia A.W.A.R.D.S. competition, Mr. Bean has taught and choreographed nationally & internationally; offering master classes /workshops whenever available. Credits: Koresh Dance Co, Donn Arden's Jubilee!, Viking Ocean. Regional: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Once on this Island*. IG: EBJDANCE

TYNIA RENÉ BRANDON (*Ensemble, Understudy Nala, Shenzi & Sarabi*). A Charlotte, NC native, TyNia is fulfilling a dream with *The Lion King* Company. Broadway & National Tour: *Beautiful*. Regional: *Born For This*, *The Wiz*. She thanks her family, friends and Clear Talent Group for their continued faith and support. IG: @thetybrand

LAYLA BRENT (*Ensemble*) Since graduating from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Layla has performed with Beckles Dancing Company, the Oklahoma City Ballet, and *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical* as Ensemble/Adult Dara.

CHRISTIN BYRDSONG (*Swing, Understudy Simba*) is a graduate of OKCU where he studied with Dr. Florence Birdwell and Dr. William Christensen. Credits include: HBO: "Euphoria," Amazon Prime: "Conframa." Off Broadway: *FIGARO! 90210* (Lil' B-Man). Regional: *Shout Sister*, *Shout!* (Little Richard), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus). For my Granny and my Mama. Psalm 100. IG: @ChristinByrdsong

SASHA CAICEDO (*Ensemble*) was born and raised in Miami, Florida. She trained at New World School of the Arts for both the HS and BFA program. Sasha has performed on stages such as the San Francisco Opera House, Adrienne Arsht Center, The Fillmore, Perez Art Museum, Lincoln Theater. She is forever grateful to have the opportunity of traveling and being

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

on stage with such a company. IG: @Delayla

THEMBELIHLE CELE (*Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Rafiki*). Born in Durban, South Africa. Credits Include: *The Nat & Natalie Show* with Colin Penn, Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*, Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, Disney's *The Lion King* (U.K., Ireland Tour and US Nat'l Tour), #D23EXPO 2017. Trained with the Flatfoot Dance Company. TV Appearance: "ETV Popstars 2010." She gives thanks to God and family. Instagram: lihlecele91 Twitter: cele_lihle

ADRIANNE CHU (*Ensemble*) is beyond excited to join the cast of *The Lion King*! Favorite Credits: 1st Nat'l Tour of *Finding Neverland* (Wendy), LCT's *The King and I*. Marymount Manhattan College, BFA Dance. Thank you to her Family, Max, DHA and Friends for their constant love & support! @achugblessyou; www.adriannechu.com

LEROY CHURCH (*Swing, Understudy Ed*) Producer/Casting/Creative Director: *Dreamgirls* on Clubhouse, featured on CNN. Chita Rivera Award Winner. Broadway/Theatre: *King Kong*, *The Lion King* (Broadway and North American tour), *Cirque Du Soleil*. Film: *Passing*. TV: "Smash" with Jennifer Hudson (NBC), "So You Think You Can Dance" (FOX), Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (NBC). Commercial: Gap, Stella Artois, Miracle-Gro, Disney's Feel Alive. Follow: @LeroyChurch

DANIELA COBB (*Ensemble, Understudy Sarabi & Shenzi*) is a graduate of Alabama State University. Theatre: *The Odyssey*; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*; *The Wiz*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Roe* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The First Noel* (Kenny Leon's True Colors); *Freak Friday* (Horizon Theatre Co.); *Black Nativity*; *For Colored Girls...*; *Dreamgirls*; (Cloverdale Playhouse) and *The Color Purple*.

LYRIC DANAE (*Swing*) is elated to be making her debut in the Pridelands! She is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program and her favorite credits include: *The Bodyguard*, *Oscar At The Crown*, and the NBA Boston Celtics. @lyricdanae

MARQUIS FLOYD (*Ensemble*) Versatile Artist/Choreographer. Trained in St. Petersburg, FL. A graduate of the Boston Conservatory. Gene Kelly Artist Award Winner. Featured credits: Dance Theater Of Harlem, Bad Boys of Ballet, Super Bowl LV Halftime Show, 2021 VMA Awards, Apple+ *Dickinson*, and Fire Shut Up In My Bones at the Metropolitan Opera House. Marquis is ecstatic to be making his debut in the Pridelands!

MUKELISIWE GOBA (*Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki*) was born in Durban, South Africa. Training: Mbongeni Ngema's Academy. Credits: *K-Cap*, *Umoja*, and *The Lion King* (Madrid, Gazelle Tour

and Broadway). Television: "Code Black," "Telethon" (France) and "40 Principals" (Madrid). She was a back-up vocalist for South African Gospel star Rebecca Malope. Mukelisiwe thanks her family for their constant support.

MARQUISE HITCHCOCK (*Ensemble*) Dancer/Choreographer: Tituss Burgess, Billboard, Netflix. Theater: Radio City Christmas Spectacular, *Take Me to the World* (Carnegie Hall), *Siluetta: A New Musical, Hairspray, Legally Blonde*. TV: "POSE" (FX). Founder of TFC Training LLC @thefitcreative__ @tfctraining

JANE KING (*Ensemble*) An Atlanta native, Jane danced for The Metropolitan Opera and Lustig Dance Theatre. Scholarships: The Ailey School, Atlanta Dance and Music Academy. Pictured in The Ballerina's Little Black Book. @janealexandriaking

GABISILE MANANA (*Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki*) Born in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, Gabisile has previously performed with *The Lion King* in Australia, Holland and Spain, and throughout the world with other international performing groups, including Africa Umoja, Stamping and Mother Africa.

CHRISTOPHER L. MCKENZIE, JR. (*Swing, Dance Captain, Understudy Ed*). A native of Miami, FL. Education: New World School of the Arts College. Training: The Ailey School. Professional Credits: Dallas Black Dance Theatre, The Las Vegas Contemporary, Festival of *The Lion King*, *The Lion King Gazelle* Tour. Thanks to family & friends for support.

JUSTIN MENSAH (*Swing, Understudy Banzai*) is a Native New Yorker who at an early age fell in love with the stage. To further develop his craft, he studied at Harlem School of the Arts and the Institute for American Musical Theatre.

PHYLICIA PEARL MPASI (*Swing, Understudy Shenzi & Sarabi*) A native of Silver Spring, MD, Phylicia is ecstatic to be back in the Pridelands. BFA Elon University (MT15.) Credits: *Lydia and the Troll* (Lydia), *Parade*, *Ragtime*, *All Shook Up*, *RENT*, *Into the Woods*. In loving memory of Simon Mpsi. For Ma Talamaku. Love to LT 10! IG/Twitter:@phyliciapearl #thelionswing Beto Bayayi! Proverbs 4:23.

NHLANHLA NDLOVU (*Ensemble, Understudy Banzai*). A South African native, Nhlahlha has been singing since before he could talk and loves live music and performances. He is grateful to be back onstage and is excited to be traveling across the country with this show. He's been with *The Lion King* for over half a decade now and has worked with the Broadway cast, North American tour and the Madrid cast in Spain. God is good all the time. Ayikho Inkomo Yobuthongo

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AARON NELSON (*Ensemble, Understudy Scar, Simba & Mufasa*). Proud Chicagoan. BA in Arts Management from Columbia College Chicago. Regional theater credits include *columbinus 2.0* (ATC), *RENT* (ATC) and *Dreamgirls* (Theater 47). Television credits include "Chicago Fire" (NBC), "Unforgettable" (CBS), "The Breaks" (VH1). Love to his wife, son, daughter, parents and family. Dedicates this performance to his uncle Dr. Larry E. Ross.

JEREMY NOEL (*Ensemble, Understudy Simba*) is thrilled to be making his Broadway debut! He's grateful to be back on the stage. Originally from Bucks County, PA. Past credits include: *SKELETON CREW* (Dez), *SISTER ACT* (TJ). Ithaca College, BFA MT '21. Insta: @Jeremynoel13

SICELO NTSHANGASE (*Ensemble*). Originally from Mpumalanga Delmas in South Africa, Sicelo formed a band with close family friends in 2012, performing at weddings and events. In 2016 he took part in DSTV's choir singing show "Clash of the Choirs" and in 2017 he joined *The Lion King's* Madrid Production.

SAYIGA EUGENE PEABODY (*Ensemble*). Raised in Stevensville, MI of Liberian descent. T.V.: Fosse/Verdon Series on FX. Tour: *An American In Paris* (1st National). Regional: *Cats*, *Sister Act*, and *Evita* (Marrriott Lincolnshire). Thanks to Binder Casting. Here to Persevere!

Yael PINEDA-HALL (*Swing, Understudy Rafiki & Sarabi*) *Disney's The Lion King*: Broadway, North American Tour, Singapore, London, Melbourne and Sydney (since 2003); *A Christmas Carol* (2013-14), *Festival of The Lion King*, HK (2007-08). Part of various Philippine Musical Theater Companies (2000-14) and Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company (1985-94). Grateful to be back on stage!

CHRISTOPHER SAMS (*Ensemble, Understudy Mufasa*) is honored to share in this legacy. Nat'l Tours: *Ragtime* (Coalhouse Walker Jr.), *Rock of Ages* (Mayor/Ja'Keith), *The Color Purple* (Ensemble/Buster). Regional: *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Drury Lane Theater). Many thanks to Shirley Hamilton Talent and the ever endearing Lowery-Harts.

T. SHYVONNE STEWART (*Swing, Understudy Sarabi & Shenzi*) Broadway: *The Lightning Thief* (OBC). National Tour: *The Lightning Thief* (1st National). Regional: *Sister Act*. TV/Film: "The Equalizer," "The Blacklist," "Power Book II: Ghost," "Partner Track," "Kennedy Center Honors," *White Face App* (NYC Comedy Short Film Festival). Education: Spelman College, GWU & Georgetown. IG: @tshyvonnestewart. tshyvonnestewart.com. Thanks: God, parents, family, friends, Take 3 Talent and Apex Talent Group.

JENNIFER THERIOT (*Swing, Understudy Nala, Sarabi & Shenzi*) is overjoyed to join this production. Attended: American Musical and Dramatic Academy NY. Regional credits: *Tarzan*; *Dreamgirls*; *Hairspray*; *Little Shop*; International: *Beauty and the Beast* Tour and Disney cruise lines. "I thank my family and friends for their constant and overflowing prayers and support!!"

COURTNEY THOMAS (*Ensemble, Understudy Ed*) is incredibly humbled to be rejoining *The Lion King* National Tour. Born in Atlanta, Ga he began dancing at North Atlanta High School at 16 under the direction of Tracy Vogt and immediately fell in love with arts. He studied dance at AREA (Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment and Arts) under the direction of Jai Jones and is humbled that *The Lion King* is his first professional work as a dancer. Insta: @cthomdance94

THOM CHRISTOPHER WARREN (*Standby Scar, Zazu, Timon, Pumbaa*) 20 years with *The Lion King* on Broadway, tour and Shanghai. B'way: *Once Upon a Mattress*. Regional faves: *La Cage...* (Albin), *Ragtime* (Tateh), *Pippin* (Charles/Berthe), *Next to Normal* (Dan), Bruce Sussman and Barry Manilow's *Harmony*; World Premiere (Harry), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Stache), and *Spring Awakening* (Adult Men). www.thomchristopherwarren.com; Rep: FSE Talent. Love to Adam & Columbus family

DIAMOND ESSENCE WHITE (*Sarabi, Ensemble, Understudy Nala*) is so thrilled to be joining the Pridelands! Broadway: *Dear Evan Hansen* (Zoe/Alana Standby). Regional: *Dreamgirls* (Deena), *Memphis* (Felicia), and *Hairspray* (Dynamite). Thank you God, family, friends, and HTA! IG- @diamondessence-white

SHERMAN WOOD (*Ensemble*) DC native; Graduate of The Duke Ellington School of the Arts '11 & The Boston Conservatory '15. Previous credits include: Ronald K Brown/Evidence, Spectrum Dance Theater, Atlanta Opera. Currently: Entertainment Plus Pro & Xcel Talent.

JULIE TAYMOR (*Director, Costume Design, Mask/Puppet Co-Design, Additional Lyrics*) won the 1998 Tony Award® for Best Direction of a Musical and for Best Costumes for *The Lion King*. It also garnered Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Awards for Taymor's direction; three Moliere Awards, including Best Musical and Best Costumes; and myriad awards for her original costume, mask and puppet designs. Taymor made her Broadway debut in 1996 with *Juan Darien: A Carnival Mass* (Lincoln Center), nominated for five Tony Awards. Other theatre work includes *M. Butterfly* starring Clive Owen (Cort Theatre), *Grounded* (Public Theatre), *The Green Bird* (New Victory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, the Cort Theatre on Broadway); *Titus Andronicus*; *The Tem-*

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pest; *The Taming of the Shrew* (Theatre for a New Audience); *The Transposed Heads* (Lincoln Center and American Music Theatre Festival); *Liberty's Taken* (Castle Hill Festival); and *Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark* (Foxwoods Theatre on Broadway). Her opera productions include the Pulitzer finalist, *Grendel*, composed by Elliot Goldenthal (Los Angeles Opera and the Lincoln Center Festival); Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, in repertory at the Metropolitan Opera since 2004; and *Oedipus Rex* with Jessye Norman, conducted by Seiji Ozawa, for which she earned the International Classical Music Award for Best Opera Production and an Emmy® for a subsequent film version. Her first film, "Fool's Fire," an adaptation of an Edgar Allan Poe short story, aired on PBS in 1992. Her feature films include *Titus*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange; *Frida*, starring Salma Hayek and Alfred Molina (six 2002 Academy Award® nominations, winning two); *Across the Universe* (2008 Golden Globe®-nomination for Best Musical/Comedy); and *The Tempest*, starring Helen Mirren, Djimon Hounsou, Russell Brand and Ben Whishaw. She recently directed *The Glorias*, starring Julianne Moore, Alicia Vikander, Bette Midler and Janelle Monae based on the life of Gloria Steinem, and completed a cinematic version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, filmed during her stage production that ran at Theatre for a New Audience's new home in Brooklyn. Taymor has received a MacArthur "genius" Grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Obie Awards, the first annual Dorothy B. Chandler Award in Theatre, 2015 Inductee to the Theatre Hall of Fame, 2015 Shakespeare Theatre Company's William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre, 2017 Disney Legends Award, among many others. A book spanning her career, *Julie Taymor: Playing with Fire*, is available from Abrams.

ELTON JOHN (*Music*). The monumental career of international singer/songwriter and performer, Elton John, has spanned more than three decades. Since launching his first tour in 1970, Elton has delivered over 4,000 performances in more than 80 countries. He is one of the top-selling solo artists of all time, with 1 diamond, 40 platinum or multi-platinum, and 23 gold albums and more than 300 million records sold worldwide. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences had awarded Elton multiple Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Legend Award. In the early 1990s, Elton collaborated with lyricist Tim Rice on the soundtrack for *The Lion King*, winning him an Academy Award. The album produced two top-selling, award-winning singles: "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" and "Circle of Life." The Tony Award-winning Broadway productions of *The Lion King* and *Aida* both awarded Elton with Grammy Awards for Best Musical Show Album. *Billy Elliot* was nominated for a record-tying 15 Tony Awards and won 10, in-

cluding Best Musical. In 1992, Elton established the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which today is one of the leading nonprofit HIV/AIDS organizations. In 1998, the Queen of England knighted him Sir Elton John, CBE. In 2004, Elton received the Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime contributions to American culture and excellence through the performing arts. In 2003, Elton was honored as the first recipient of the prestigious BRITs Icon Award. Elton announced the 'Farewell Yellow Brick Road' tour at New York's Gotham Hall in January 2018. Encompassing 5 continents, and over 350 dates, this 3-year-long tour started in September 2018 and marks his retirement from touring after more than 50 years on the road. In May 2019 it was named Billboard's Top Rock Tour. 2019 also saw the release of the critically acclaimed 'Rocketman' and global bestselling autobiography, 'Me'. An epic fantasy musical motion picture of Elton's life 'Rocketman' has been a box office smash, taking close to \$200m at the box office, and has already won two Golden Globe Awards including Best Original Song. It has also garnered nominations for three Critics' Choice Awards, four BAFTA nominations, an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song and its soundtrack has also been nominated for a GRAMMY Award.

TIM RICE (*Lyrics*) has worked in music, theatre and films since 1965 when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs they turned their attention to Andrew's obsession – musical theatre. Their first collaboration (lyrics by Tim, music by Andrew) was based on the life of Dr. Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist, *The Likes Of Us*. Their next three works together were much more successful – *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*. Tim has also worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King*, *Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin*, *King David*, *Beauty and the Beast*), Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*), and Stuart Brayson (*From Here to Eternity*). Tim founded his own cricket team in 1973 and was President of MCC in 2002. He was appointed President of the London Library in 2017 in succession to Sir Tom Stoppard. He has won several awards (an EGOT, etc.), mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.

LEBO M (*Additional Music & Lyrics, Vocal Score, Vocal Arrangements, Choral Director*) is known as the "voice and spirit of *The Lion King*." Once a teenage singer in Soweto, the GRAMMY® Award winner and Tony® nominee's music brings audiences to tears with hauntingly inspiring African rhythms and melodies. Lebo's talents have been hailed by the worldwide press in superlatives that might describe the most delightfully poetic of musical deities. Since his arrival in America, Lebo has attracted music industry giants such as Quincy Jones, Jimmy

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Cliff and Hans Zimmer as mentors, allies and collaborators. Lebo has performed and produced four albums, *Rhythm of the Pride Lands* (Disney), *Deeper Meaning* (Gallo) and *The Lion King* (Japanese and Hamburg cast recordings). Other credits include *The Power of One*, *Back on the Block* and *Listen Up with Quincy Jones*; the feature films *Outbreak* (Warner Bros.), *Congo* (Warner Bros.) and *Born to Be Wild* (Paramount); he is the composer and co-producer of the *Legend of Tarzan* theme song, "Opar," and the Disney television special "People." He has performed on the Academy Awards® and the Essence Awards Show, with Vanessa Redgrave at Kthimi-The Return in Kosovo, and been honored by Artists for a Free South Africa.

MARK MANCINA (*Additional Music & Lyrics, Music Produced for the Stage, Additional Score*). A Tony® nominee and multi-platinum, three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning composer, Mr. Mancina produced songs for Disney's blockbuster animated feature film, and proved a uniquely qualified choice to produce the music for the stage production of *The Lion King*. The 1994 film's critical and box office success spawned the hit album *Rhythm of the Pride Lands*, for which he co-wrote and produced multiple tracks, including "He Lives in You" and "Shadowland," songs featured in the stage production. In addition to his songwriting and producing achievements, he is a seasoned film score composer. Mr. Mancina's credits include mega-hits *Moana*, *Training Day*, *Speed*, *Twister*, *Bad Boys*, *Tarzan*, and *August Rush* among many others.

ROGER ALLERS (*Book*) directed the 1994 animated feature *The Lion King* with co-director Rob Minkoff. He then, along with co-author Irene Mecchi, wrote the book for *The Lion King* Broadway musical based on his film, receiving the 1998 Tony nomination. Mr. Allers has been instrumental in shaping the structure and dialogue for many Disney animated features since 1986, including *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Oliver and Company*, *Rescuers Down Under* and the first CGI movie, *Tron*. He directed the Academy Award-nominated short *The Little Matchgirl* for Disney and co-directed the 2006 animated feature *Open Season* for Sony Studios. Mr. Allers wrote and directed the 2015 animated adaptation of Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*, a book of philosophical poetry. Currently, he is writing an original musical for the Broadway stage.

IRENE MECCHI (*Book*) began her association with Disney in March 1992, when she wrote *Recycle Rex*, an animated short, which won the 1994 Environmental Media Award. Irene is a co-writer of Disney's animated features *The Lion King*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Hercules*. Along with co-author Roger Allers, she received a 1998 Tony® nomination for writing the book for *The Lion King*. Irene also

wrote the teleplay for "Annie," directed by Rob Marshall. She shares a writing credit on Disney Pixar's *Brave*. Irene adapted *Peter Pan* for NBC's Live production and is currently adapting a stage musical for the Universal Theatrical Group.

GARTH FAGAN (*Choreographer*) is the recipient of the 1998 Tony Award®, the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award (London, UK) and the 2004 Helpmann Award (Australia) for Best Choreography in a musical as well as the Drama Desk Award, the Astaire Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award for his work on *The Lion King*. Mr. Fagan was born in Kingston, Jamaica, where he received the Prime Minister's Award, a Special Gold Musgrave Medal for his "Contribution to the World of Dance and Dance Theater" and in 2001, he received the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander. For more than 47 years he has toured the world with *Garth Fagan Dance*. On television the company has appeared on "Great Performances," "The Tonight Show" and the Academy Awards®. Mr. Fagan forged his own dance language and technique from Afro-Caribbean, ballet and post-modern dance, and has choreographed for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Jose Limon Company, the New York City Ballet and others. In addition, he choreographed Joseph Papp's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and directed and choreographed the Duke Ellington street opera, *Queenie Pie* at the Kennedy Center. A Chancellor's Award-winning Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of the State University of New York, his awards include the 2001 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award, a Bessie Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Fulbright 50th Anniversary Distinguished Fellow. In 2001 he was the recipient of the Golden Plate Award and inducted into the American Academy of Achievement. He was selected in 2012 as an "Irreplaceable Dance Treasure" by The Dance Heritage Coalition. In 2017, Mr. Fagan received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Dance Guild.

RICHARD HUDSON (*Scenic Design*) Born in Zimbabwe, he trained at Wimbledon School of Art. He has designed sets and costumes for operas at Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, The Metropolitan Opera, New York, La Scala Milan, Maggio Musicale Florence, English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Kent Opera, Opera North, Wiener Staatsoper, Opéra de Paris, Munich, Chicago, Copenhagen, Tokyo, Athens, Bregenz, Amsterdam, Zurich, Barcelona, Madrid, Brussels, Chicago, Houston, Washington, Toronto, St. Petersburg, Venice, Pesaro, Genoa, Turin, Bologna and Rome. He has also designed for the Aldeburgh Festival, Royal Ballet, Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, Royal Court, Almeida and Young Vic. In 1988 he won an Olivier Award for a season of plays at the Old Vic, and for *The Lion King* he received a Tony Award in 1998. He is a Royal De-

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signer for Industry (RDI). In 2003 he won the Gold Medal for set design at the Prague Quadrennial, and in 2005 he was given an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Surrey. Recent theatre includes: *Peter Gynt*, *Common* (National); *The Nutcracker* (American Ballet Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (National Ballet of Canada); *Le Coq D'or*, *La Bayadere* and *Raymonda* (Royal Danish Ballet); *Wagner's Ring Cycle* (Teatro Massimo, Palermo); *Versailles* (Donmar Warehouse); *La Traviata* (Grange Park); *The Sleeping Beauty* (American Ballet Theatre at The Metropolitan Opera/ La Scala, Milan); *Morgen und Abend* (Royal Opera House/Deutsche Oper); *Romeo and Juliet* (Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow); *Wake* (Birmingham Opera Company); *The Outsider* (The Print Room); and costumes for *Yumé* (Opera de Reims); *Peter Grimes* (Opera de Lyon); and *Asters* (New National Opera of Japan); and the sets for *Leopoldstadt* by Tom Stoppard (Wynham's Theatre, London).

DONALD HOLDER (*Lighting Design*) received the 1998 Tony® Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for *The Lion King* (Broadway) and the Moliere Award for *The Lion King* (Paris). Broadway: Over fifty productions, including: *Anastasia*; *She Loves Me* (2016 revival); *The King and I* (2015 revival); *The Bridges of Madison County*; *Golden Boy*; *South Pacific* (2008 Tony Award®); *Oslo, Ragtime*, *Les Liasons Dangereuses*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Gem of the Ocean*; *Movin' Out*; *Juan Darien* (all Tony® nominated); *On The Twentieth Century*; *You Can't Take It With You*; *Spiderman-Turn Off the Dark*; *Promises, Promises*; *Annie* (2012 revival); *Arcadia*; *Come Fly Away*; *Cyrano de Bergerac*; *The Little Dog Laughed*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *The Boy from Oz*; and many others. Television: "Smash" seasons one and two, NBC/DreamWorks. Education: Yale School Of Drama, Head of Lighting Design, Rutgers University.

MICHAEL CURRY (*Mask & Puppet Co-Design*). Over 25 years Michael has worked widely as a visual and concept designer for numerous companies, such as Disney Theme Parks and Theatrical Productions, Cirque du Soleil, The Metropolitan Opera, seven Olympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Universal Studios Theme Parks and many others. He collaborates regularly with visionary directors and producers. Mr. Curry has received many prestigious awards, including several for his work on Broadway, Olympic ceremonies, and his continued innovations in the fields of scenic visual effects, and puppetry design. In the music industry Michael is known for his innovative designs for Michael Jackson, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga and countless others. Michael Curry Design, Inc. is comprised of 50 innovative designers and fabricators who conceive and produce state of the art creations for live entertainment. His studio is located in Portland, Oregon.

MICHAEL WARD (*Hair & Makeup Design*) designs for opera and theatre. For Disney: *The Lion King* (Broadway and others) and *Der Glöckner von Notre Dame* (Berlin). Other work has been seen in Britain, The United States, Holland, France, Japan, Israel and Portugal. Along with his design work in theatre, he works as a garden and landscape designer.

STEVE CANYON KENNEDY (*Sound Designer*) Broadway sound design credits include, *Ain't Too Proud, On Your Feet, Doctor Zhivago, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (Tony Award), *Hands On A Hardbody* (Drama Desk Award), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Catch Me If You Can* (Tony Nomination), *Guys and Dolls, Mary Poppins, The Lion King, Jersey Boys* (Drama Desk Award), *Billy Crystal's 700 Sundays, Rent, Hairspray, The Producers, Aida, Titanic, Big, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Carousel* and *The Who's Tommy* (Drama Desk Award).

HANS ZIMMER (*Additional Music & Lyrics*) Hans Zimmer has scored more than 200 projects across all mediums, which, combined, have grossed more than 28 billion dollars at the worldwide box office. Zimmer has been honored with an Academy Award®, two Golden Globes®, three Grammys®, an American Music Award, and a Tony® Award. His work highlights include *Gladiator, The Thin Red Line, As Good as It Gets, Rain Man, The Dark Knight trilogy, Inception, Thelma and Louise, The Last Samurai, 12 Years A Slave, Blade Runner 2049* (co-scored w/ Benjamin Wallfisch) and *Dunkirk*, as well as recent film scores including *Wonder Woman 1984*, Ron Howard's *Hillbilly Elegy* and *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge on the Run*. In 2019, Zimmer scored the live-action remake of *The Lion King*, for which he received a Grammy nomination for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media. Zimmer's films for 2021 include the James Bond film *No Time to Die*, Denis Villeneuve's *Dune*, *Top Gun: Maverick* and *The Boss Baby: Family Business*. Zimmer has completed highly successful Hans Zimmer Live tour stops around the globe and will continue to perform in an upcoming European tour beginning in February 2022.

JAY RIFKIN (*Additional Music & Lyrics*). The GRAMMY® Award-winning producer, together with producing and composing partner Hans Zimmer, created Media Ventures, a multifaceted entertainment group that includes music, new media, film and television. Their partnership has earned them numerous awards and nominations, including Academy Award® nominations, for the film scores of *Driving Miss Daisy, Rain Man* and *The Lion King*. Following the success of *The Lion King*, Jay conceived and produced the gold-selling follow-up album *Rhythm of the Pride Lands*. He is also chairman of Media Revolution and a founder of the film production company Media Ventures Pictures.

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ANTHONY LYN (*Associate Director*). Anthony was born in Swansea South Wales and trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Has worked as an actor, director, teacher and associate director. London theatre credits include *Anything Goes*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, *Joseph...*, *Damn Yankees* and Disney's *The Lion King*. Broadway production credits include Disney's *The Lion King*, *Miss Saigon*, *Mary Poppins* and *Les Miserables*. Touring and global production credits include *Mary Poppins* (US National tours, Vienna, Mexico City) and *Les Miserables* (US National tour, Toronto). Anthony is currently the Associate Director for global productions of *The Lion King*, on which he has worked since 1999; as well as *Saturday Night Fever* and *Masquerade* for Jean Ann Ryan Productions globally. TV credits include the Tony Awards, "An American Celebration," "Dancing with the Stars," "The Late Show with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien," the *Royal Variety Performance* and the 2013 Oscars. Has taught at the Royal Academy of Music London, The Actors' Centre and Duke University in the US and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College in July 2018.

MAREY GRIFFITH (*Associate Choreographer*). A native New Yorker, Miss Griffith toured worldwide with the acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a featured dancer/soloist. Other guest appearances include Déjà vu Dance Theatre, and the Spoleto festival in Italy. Miss Griffith worked as choreographer on the star-studded production of *The Wizard of Oz* in concert at Avery Fisher Hall with Nathan Lane, Joel Grey, Jewel and Natalie Cole. She has also appeared in numerous soap operas, commercials and voice-overs. Since joining the creative team of *The Lion King* in August of 2000, Miss Griffith has been mounting and maintaining numerous productions worldwide. She feels incredibly honored to be working with choreographer Garth Fagan.

CLEMENT ISHMAEL (*Music Supervisor*) is a conductor, composer and arranger. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto and Royal Conservatory of Music, where he specialized in composition and conducting as well as singing with Joyce Britten. He was Associate Conductor of the Royal Conservatory of Music Choirs under the tutelage of Denise Nacisse-Mair. After graduating he continued his studies in conducting and composition at the Guildhall School of Music in London. Conducting credits include: Abbey Players Opera Company, Ad Astra Chorus, Addison Jazz Ensemble and West London Gospel Choir. He also conducted the new ballet *Awakening* at Sadlers Wells. West End credits include: *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *Soul Train*. He has also directed and arranged the music for numerous shows which include: *Sweet Lorraine*, *Up Against the Wall*, *The Amen Corner*, *The Grape*

Vine, *The Cavaliers* and *Gem of the Ocean* at the Tricycle Theatre. His classical compositions and arrangements have been performed worldwide as well as being broadcast by BBC Television and Radio. His first Opera, *Looking at the Sun*, was performed at the Battersea Arts Centre, and his opera *Grazyna* was performed at the Royal Opera House's Lindbury Studio. Clement's latest commission, for the London Piano Trio, was debuted at the Capri Music Festival in Italy. He also successfully performed in concert his new album *Poetry in Song* at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. There are plans for further performances in London, Paris and New York. His next major composition is his third Opera, *Antigone*, with the Canadian librettist Mel Coop.

ROBERT ELHAI (*Associate Music Producer, Orchestrator*). This Tony® and Drama Desk nominee has arranged and orchestrated Oscar®, GRAMMY®, and Emmy®-winning music for composers Elliot Golden-thal (*Juan Darien*, *Frida*), Alan Menken ("Galavant"), Brian Tyler (*Iron Man 3*, *Fast and Furious* series) and many others. His compositions have graced theater and concert stages around the world. robertelhai.com

DAVID METZGER (*Orchestrator*) is a Tony®, Grammy®, and Drama Desk® nominated arranger, orchestrator, composer, and music producer. His Broadway credits include *The Lion King* and *Frozen*, and he has over 75 films to his credit, including *Frozen*, *Frozen II*, *Moana*, *Tarzan*, *WandaVision*, and *The Avengers*. He has contributed to multiple Academy®, Grammy®, Tony®, and Emmy® Award winning projects, as well as 17 Platinum and Gold records, and 33 winning or nominated Annie Award films.

MICHAEL KELLER (*Music Coordinator*). Current Broadway: *Frozen*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hamilton*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Wicked*, *The Lion King*. Tours: *Frozen*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hamilton*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Wicked*, *The Lion King*. Pamela, Alexis, Zachary, Christin & Gavin make it all worthwhile.

KARL SHYMANOVITZ (*Music Director/Conductor*) has happily worked with various companies of *The Lion King* since 2004. He has conducted at opera houses in Germany and Italy and was the Music Director for El Paso Opera. Other credits include *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (Detroit and Denver Center), *The Producers* (Las Vegas), *Spamalot* (1st National Tour), *Marry Me a Little* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *West Side Story* (Trinity Rep). His arrangements have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, The University of Michigan, and CCM.

CHRISTOPH BUSKIES (*KeyComp Programming*). Christoph's revolutionary music system KeyComp has been successfully implemented worldwide in "Fro-

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

zen", "Aladdin", "The Little Mermaid", "Sister Act", "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King". More information available through www.keycomp.com

KEITH BENNETT (*Resident Director*). Broadway credits include Richie in *A Chorus Line*, BJ in *OH, KAY!*, Wonder Boy in *The High Rollers*, Horace in *Olympus On My Mind*, Banzai in *The Lion King*. Tours include: *Dancin'*, *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Five Guys Named Moe*. Regional: *Stand-Up Tragedy*, *Betsey Brown*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Bo Bo's*, *A Son Come Home*. Show dedicated to wife Deidre and my lovely daughters Tyler and Jordan. Big shout out to my Lord God.

GEOFF MYERS (*Resident Dance Supervisor*) has been on Broadway or on tour with *The Lion King* since 2003. His titles have included ensemble male dancer, male dancer swing, fight and dance captain, and most recently a four-year stint as Resident Dance Supervisor for *The Lion King* Gazelle Tour. *The Lion King* Rafiki Tour marks Geoff's 5th *Lion King* company. Before joining *The Lion King*, Geoff enjoyed a long and successful career as a concert dancer with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Geoff has worked with some of the dance worlds most renown choreographers Twyla Tharp, Nacho Duato, Ohad Naharin, David Parsons, and Danny Ezralow to name a few. Geoff brings more than 20 years dance performance experience to his position as resident dance director.

BRIAN WESTMORELAND (*Production Stage Manager*). Brian comes to the Pridelands after several years with *Chicago* (U.S. tour and international companies in Tokyo, Manila, Taiwan, Seoul, Mexico City, Tel Aviv and more). Broadway: *Phantom of the Opera*, *A Doll's House*, *Juan Darien*; Tours: *Chicago*, *King and I*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Fiddler*, *Annie Warbucks*. Other credits: Dance Theatre of Harlem, Crossroads Theatre Company and more. UCLA graduate.

CHARLES UNDERHILL (*Stage Manager*) Broadway: *Frozen*, *School of Rock*, *Something Rotten!*, *Rocky*, *Annie*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Hugh Jackman Back on Broadway*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof* (2008 Revival), *Les Misérables* (2006 Revival), *The History Boys*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Bombay Dreams*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Wild Party*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1.0, 2.0, 3.0). Off-Broadway: *Elaine Strich: At Liberty* – The Public Theater. National tours: *Frozen*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Carousel*. Other: Associate Production Supervisor – *The Lion King* (Worldwide) & *Frozen* (Tokyo, North American Tour), Jimmy Buffett's *Don't Stop the Carnival* – Nassau, Bahamas.

KAREN PARLATO (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Broadway: *The Phantom of the Opera*. Off-Broadway: *Silence! The Musical*, *The Fantasticks*, *Triassic Park*,

Wanda's World. Regional theatres including: Ogunquit Playhouse, Fulton Theatre, Crossroads Theatre Company. Love and thanks to Mom, Dad and Aunt Joan. Twitter: @HeadsetChatter

MICHELLE SCALPONE (*Assistant Stage Manager*). Broadway: *Love Life* (Encores), *Fish In The Dark*, *Matilda*, *Forever Tango*, *Chaplin*. NYC: The Public Theater, Audible, The New Group, Red Bull, The Shed, Atlantic; TV: "Encore!" (Disney+), NBC's "The Wiz Live." Regional: Kennedy Center, Bucks County, Goodspeed, Williamstown, Old Globe. Education: University of Arizona & Juilliard. For Dad, Mom, & Julie. @scalponesm

GWENDOLYN M. GILLIAM (*Sub Stage Manager*). Broadway and Tour stage management credits include *Slave Play*, *Eclipsed*, *Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Bring In Da Noise/Bring In Da Funk*, *Aida*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Chicago*, *Marley* and *Fela!* She has managed events for numerous charities and corporations including Jackie Robinson Foundation, Jazzmobile, Merrill Lynch, New Line Cinema, The Apollo and NY Film Festival for Film Society of Lincoln Center.

JOSHUA PILOTE (*Sub Stage Manager*). Tours: *Miss Saigon*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Jersey Boys*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Dirty Dancing*, *RENT*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Other: Blue Man Group, Dallas Theater Center, La Jolla Playhouse, LA Philharmonic, The Old Globe, Public Theater, Roundabout, T.U.T.S. Proud AEA Member. B.A.: The College of Idaho. Follow his adventures on Instagram @co_pilote.

DEAN REMINGTON (*Sub Stage Manager*). Manager National Tours: *The Lion King* (sub since 2004), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. International: *Hey, Mr. Producer!* (Cameron Mackintosh). La Jolla Playhouse: *The Luckiest*, *3 Farids*, *The Garden*, *Annual Gala*. San Diego Repertory: *Outside Mullingar*, *Manifest Destinitis* (World Premiere). Cygnet Theatre: *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Virgin Trial*, (US Premiere).

CAROLYN M. LAWSON (*Physical Therapy*) is founder and CEO of Neurosport & NEURO TOUR, leaders in performing arts medicine. We are honored to be part of this amazing Rafiki Tour.

BINDER CASTING/MARK BRANDON, CSA (*Casting*). Binder Casting was founded by Jay Binder nearly 40 years ago and has been a part of RWS Entertainment Group since 2016. The office has cast 150+ Broadway, Off-Broadway, and National Touring productions, in addition to countless national and international projects spanning both stage and screen. Binder was featured prominently in the Broadway documentary, *Every Little Step*, and is a proud twelve-time recipient of the Artios Award for Excellence in Casting. The office infuses its work with both a deep

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respect for our roots and a commitment to growth.
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CHRIS MONTAN (*Executive Music Producer*) joined Disney in 1984 and is currently president of Walt Disney Music. Under his guidance as head of music, soundtracks from nine theatrical releases (*Cocktail*, *Beaches*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Pretty Woman*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, and *Tarzan*) were certified multiplatinum. Additionally, the Studio received GRAMMY®, Golden Globe® and Academy Award® recognition for many of its music entries. Most recently he served as executive producer of the Wonderful World of Disney's production of *Annie*, as well as a producer with the television production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, which was nominated for seven Emmy Awards.

DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS (DTP), a division of The Walt Disney Studios, was formed in 1994 and operates under the direction of Thomas Schumacher. Worldwide, its 10 Broadway titles have been seen by more than 200 million theatergoers and have been nominated for 62 Tony® Awards, winning Broadway's highest honor 20 times. With 24 productions currently produced or licensed, a Disney musical is being performed professionally somewhere on the planet virtually every hour of the day. The company's inaugural production, *Beauty and the Beast*, opened in 1994. It played a remarkable 13-year run on Broadway and has been produced in 37 countries worldwide. A brand-new production of *Beauty and the Beast*, reimagined by members of the original Broadway creative team – led by Matt West – is currently on tour throughout the UK and Ireland. In November 1997, Disney opened *The Lion King*, which received six 1998 Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Director, Julie Taymor, who became the first woman in Broadway history to win the award. Approaching 25 landmark years on Broadway, it has welcomed 110 million visitors worldwide to date and has 10 productions currently running worldwide. *The Lion King* has played over 100 cities in 21 countries on every continent except Antarctica; its worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in box office history. Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* opened on Broadway next, winning four 2000 Tony Awards. It was followed by *Mary Poppins*, a co-production with Cameron Mackintosh, which opened in London in 2004 and went on to enjoy a six-year Tony-winning Broadway run. The show continues its Olivier award-winning London return at its original home, the Prince Edward Theatre. *Tarzan*®, which opened on Broadway in 2006, went on to become an international hit with an award-winning production enjoying a 10-year run in Germany. In January 2008, *The Little Mermaid* opened on Broadway and was the best-selling new musical of that year. DTP opened two critically ac-

claimed productions on Broadway in 2012, receiving seven Tony Awards between them: *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *Newsies*, each of which enjoyed a two-year run and launched North American tours, with *Newsies* playing a record-breaking Fathom Events in-cinema release. *Aladdin*, Disney Theatrical's 2014 hit, continues its smash Broadway run. It has launched eight productions around the globe and been seen by more than 14 million guests. Its newest hit, the 2018 Tony-nominated Best Musical *Frozen*, completed its record-breaking Broadway run in March 2020, and currently has five productions around the world: the North American tour, Australia, Japan, London and Hamburg. Other successful stage ventures have included the Olivier-nominated London hit *Shakespeare in Love*, stage productions of Disney's *High School Musical*, *Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame* in Berlin, and *King David* in concert. DTP has collaborated with the nation's preeminent theaters to develop new stage musicals including *The Jungle Book*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Freaky Friday* and *Hercules*. As a part of the recent acquisition of 21st Century Fox, DTP also heads the Buena Vista Theatrical banner, which licenses Fox titles for stage adaptations including *Anastasia*, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Devil Wears Prada*.



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The Lion King originally premiered at the Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, MN

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Visit *The Lion King* website on the World Wide Web at: www.disneyonbroadway.com

The Lion King National Tour proudly participates in **Touring Green**. We transport our theatrical equipment on a carbon neutral basis with Clark Transfer in association with NatheEnergy.com. For more information on this program, please visit www.clarktransfer.com/green.



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"The Lion Sleeps Tonight" written by Hugo Peretti, George David Weiss, Luigi Creatore and Solomon Linda;

"Nao Tse Tsa" written by Jacques Loubeau;

"Hawaiian War Chant (Ta-Hu-Wa-Hu-Wai)" written by Johnny Noble,

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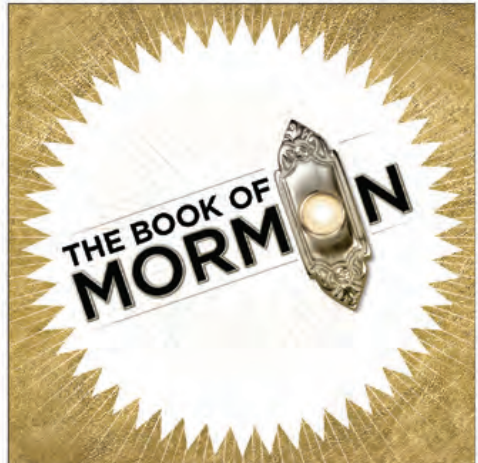
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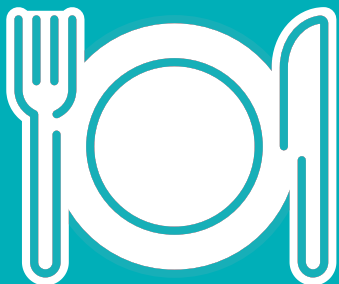
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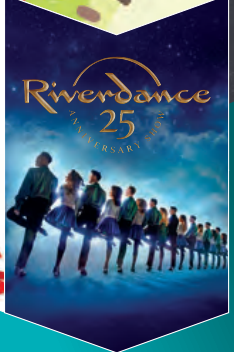
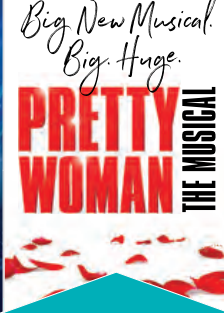
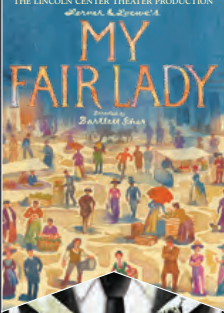
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