

SHOWBILL

WWW.HAWTHORNEPLAYERS.COM



July 28 - August 6, 2023

Florissant Performing Arts Center



76 SEASONS OF LIVE THEATRE

Thank you to our donors for your contribution to the performing arts. Your support helps keep live theatre - alive. If you can help Hawthorne Players continue to bring quality productions to our community, please send your tax deductible donation to:

Hawthorne Players
15310 Forte de France | Florissant, MO 63034

Marquee Club

\$100 or more

Richard Blaha
 Ken & Kristin Clark
 Nancy Crouse
 Mary & Dennis Dudenhoeffer
 Colleen Heneghan
 Douglas Lane
 Mary Lou & Bill Hof
 Kay & Gerry Love
 Larry Marsh & Kim Jones
 John Robertson
 Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Roby
 Kelsey Ruthman
 Tina Schneider
 Michael & Renee Sevier-
 Monsey
 Carl & Kathy Wennlund

Spotlight Club

\$50 to \$99

Steve Anderson & Mark Lull
 Sharon Carter
 Margaret Connors
 Connie Czuchna
 Claire Garner
 Don Kusterer
 Bill & Barbara Shannon
 Linda & Gary Shook
 Susan Wease
 Eric Wennlund
 Sheila Whittington

Key Light Club

\$25 to \$49

Michael & Mary Dobbs
 Dean & Marie Dobson
 Bradley Fritz
 Rosemary Kinder
 Katherine Manor
 Sharon Misbauer
 Mike & Kathie Nestor
 Alfred Thompson
 Joanne Tirpak
 Lynn & Greg Working

Footlight Club

\$10 to \$24

Pat Brueggen
 Susan Erickson
 Jim Hoefener
 Jon Hey & Stephen Peirick
 Ellen Mattli
 Donna Smith-Pupillo
 Jean Straube
 Tom Snider & Kathy Kniepmann

In Memory/Honor

\$100 or more

Dottie Bertolino, in memory of
 Tony Bertolino
 Curious Incident Cast/crew, in
 memory of Natalee Damron



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vice President.....Tina Schneider
 Treasurer.....Kim Jones
 Recording Secretary.....Jean Heckmann
 Corresponding SecretaryJohn Robertson
 Season Tickets.....Colleen Heneghan
 House Management.....Douglas Lane
 Publicity.....Robert Doyle
 Membership.....Lori Renna
 Scholarship Coordinator.....Larry Marsh

Currently seeking to fill the positions of President,
 Technical Director and Community Liaison.





presents

THE COLOR PURPLE

BASED UPON THE NOVEL WRITTEN BY ALICE WALKER AND THE
WARNER BROS./AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE

BOOK BY

MARSHA
NORMAN

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY

BRENDA
RUSSELL

ALLEE
WILLIS

STEPHEN
BRAY

THE COLOR PURPLE was produced on Broadway at the Broadway Theater by Oprah Winfrey, Scott Sanders, Roy Furman and Quincy Jones. The world premiere of THE COLOR PURPLE was produced by the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Color Purple is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide.
1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036
www.theatricalrights.com



WITH SUPPORT FROM
THE REGIONAL ARTS COMMISSION

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Reading Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Color Purple in the early 1980's, I was struck by the power of its simplicity, the universality of Celie's personal story, and the beauty of its spiritual message to love and find the beauty of God in ourselves so that we can truly love others and appreciate the beauty that surrounds and binds us all together. Seeing the 1985 movie was a visceral experience for me; later listening to the 2005 score of the original Broadway production I thought, "Yes, they've captured the essence of Walker's novel!" Then when I directed Hawthorne's The Wiz in 2014, several of us on the creative team (also key members of this team) started talking about having the talent in our St. Louis community to do The Color Purple here; Musical Director Jermaine Manor even shared his memory book of the original Broadway show with me and said, "Keep it until we're able to get the rights to do it!"

Just before it closed in 2017, Costume Designer Jean Heckmann and I were enthralled seeing the Tony-award winning revival at the Jacobs Theatre on Broadway. We couldn't stop talking about it at dinner the next evening with a former student of mine, who just happened to be a Theatre Rights Worldwide representative at the time. He believed that no tour was planned and that amateur production rights might soon be available for community theatres. We returned home, hoping we could quickly attain the rights to produce the show on this Florissant stage, but the resounding success of the final weeks of the revival meant professional tours and productions soon followed - postponing the possibility for community theatres like Hawthorne Players to do the show - until now.

So 40 years after first admiring this iconic story, I am thrilled to be a very small part of bringing it to the Florissant Performing Arts Center's stage. Please note this revival version returns to the simplicity of Walker's novel, encouraging you to participate with us by using your imaginations, much as you would if you were reading the original novel. Celie gives birth before your eyes; chairs become church pews or shovels or surround invisible tables. No artificial intelligence can replace LIVE theatre magic brought to you by extraordinary talents who share their gifts for the love of the art within them; they are true not-for-profit community creatives: they are your friends, your family, your neighbors, your community. They are this wonderful cast, its amazing production staff, the dedicated Florissant Theatre Staff and the creative Florissant Media Staff, the staunch Hawthorne Players Board of Directors and the supportive Regional Arts Commission. To all - my great admiration and appreciation - every night I say with Celie, "I think this is the youngest us ever felt! Amen."

Nancy Crouse

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

HUCKLEBERRY PIE	YOUNG CELIE AND NETTIE
MYSTERIOUS WAYS.....	CHURCH LADIES, PREACHER AND COMPANY
SOMEBODY GONNA LOVE YOU	CELIE AND NETTIE
OUR PRAYER.....	NETTIE, CELIE AND MISTER
BIG DOG.....	MISTER AND FIELD HANDS
HELL NO!	SOFIA AND SISTERS
BROWN BETTY	HARPO, HIS BUDDIES AND SQUEAK
SHUG AVERY COMIN' TO TOWN	MISTER, CELIE AND COMPANY
TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR WORDS	SHUG AVERY
PUSH DA BUTTON.....	SHUG AVERY AND COMPANY
UH OH!	COMPANY
WHAT ABOUT LOVE?.....	CELIE AND SHUG AVERY

15-minute Intermission

ACT TWO

AFRICAN HOMELAND	NETTIE, CELIE, OLIVIA, ADAM, OLINKA CHIEF, DRUMMERS AND DANCERS
THE COLOR PURPLE	SHUG AVERY
CELIE'S CURSE.....	MISTER
MISS CELIE'S PANTS.....	CELIE, SHUG AVERY, SOFIA AND WOMEN
ANY LITTLE THING.....	HARPO AND SOFIA
I'M HERE	CELIE
THE COLOR PURPLE (REPRISE).....	CELIE AND COMPANY

MUSICIANS

MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR.....	JERMAINE MANOR
KEYBOARD 1.....	HENRY PALKES
KEYBOARD 2	JOE SIMPSON
REED 1.....	KAYLIN KNOST, BRANDON THOMPSON
REED 2.....	ALEX MACKE
TRUMPET	LARRY LEVIN
BASS	CARLTON ADAMS
GUITAR	BENJAMIN ASH
DRUMS.....	JAKE LUEBBERT

CAST



Bola Adeniran



Cynthia Aldridge



Ivy Coleman



Travis Cummings



Faith Curtis



Cheeraz Gormon



Carmen R. Guynn



Harvey Howell



Sharee Jones



Saraiya Kalu



Kim Khavé



John W. Leggette



Rennell Parker, Sr.



Victoria E. Pines



Corrinna Redford



Adrian L. Rice



Areanna Shears



Clifton Simpson



Sierra Smith



Ashlen Southerland



Terrell Thompson



Gregory R. Troupe II



Darren Wilson

SPECIAL THANKS

Brian Paladin and the Florissant Performing Arts Center staff,
North Hills United Methodist Church (Pastor Mary Ann Cieslak),
City of Florissant Media Department, Ed Jorel,
Doris Lucy Goodlow, Nellie Fogg, Glenn Wells,
Terry M. Fischer Theatre - St. Louis Community College
at Florissant Valley, Lori Renna, Victoria E. Pines



In consideration of our actors and those seated around you, please silence your electronic devices, unwrap hard candies/ cough drops and refrain from texting. The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the authors' rights and actionable under United States copyright law.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	NANCY CROUSE
Assistant Director.....	RENEE L. FENNER
Musical Director:.....	JERMAINE MANOR
Choreographer	JAMELL JACOBS
Dramaturg	SHUG GOODLOW
Stage Manager	CINDI SWITZER BEDELL
Assistant Stage Manager.....	RHONDA CROPP
Fight Choreographer.....	MARK ROGERS
Set & Projection Designer	NATALIE PIACENTINI
Costume Designer	JEAN HECKMANN
Costume Assistants	TRACEY ANN NEWCOMB AND NELLIE FOGG
Light Designer	ERIC WENNLUND
Sound Designer	RYAN SCHAPER
Projectionist	BOB VEATCH
Props Coordinator	DORIS LUCY GOODLOW
Wig/Makeup Design	JENNIFER HAYMAN
Dance Captain.....	ASHLEN SOUTHERLAND
Set Construction.....	NATALIE PIACENTINI, MARK ROGERS, PIPPIN MCGOWAN, CAST, CREW, FRIENDS & FAMILY
Stage Crew	DONNIESHA HARTAN, ROBYN SYKES
House Management.....	DOUGLAS LANE
Publicity/Photos	ROBERT DOYLE
Program Design & Layout	KEN CLARK



THEATRE ETIQUETTE *The show is not over until the actors have taken their curtain call. For your safety, please remain at your seat until they have made their final exit and the auditorium lights have been turned on.*

CAST (in order of appearance)

Celie.....	SARAIYA KALU
Nettie.....	BOLA ADENIRAN
Pa.....	RENNELL PARKER, SR.
Church Ladies.....	CYNTHIA ALDRIDGE, CARMEN R. GUYNN, KIM KHAVÉ, AREANNA SHEARS
Preacher.....	JOHN W. LEGGETTE
Mister.....	ADRIAN L. RICE
Field Hands.....	HARVEY HOWELL, JOHN W. LEGGETTE, RENNELL PARKER, SR., CLIFTON SIMPSON, TERRELL THOMPSON, GREGORY R. TROUPE II, DARREN WILSON
Harpo.....	TRAVIS CUMMINGS
Sofia.....	SHAREE JONES
Sofia's Sisters.....	BOLA ADENIRAN, IVY COLEMAN, FAITH CURTIS, CHEERAZ GORMON, ASHLEN SOUTHERLAND, SIERRA SMITH
Harpo's Buddies.....	HARVEY HOWELL, JOHN W. LEGGETTE, CLIFTON SIMPSON, TERRELL THOMPSON, GREGORY R. TROUPE II, DARREN WILSON
Squeak.....	CORRINNA REDFORD
Shug Avery.....	VICTORIA E. PINES
Ol' Mister.....	DARREN WILSON
Buster.....	GREGORY R. TROUPE II
Adam.....	CLIFTON SIMPSON
Olivia.....	FAITH CURTIS
Chief of the Olinka.....	TERRELL THOMPSON
Olinka Drummers.....	AAKHEN ANU, CHEERAZ GORMON, ISAAC D. PETERSON
Olinka Dancers.....	RIYAN BRYANT, KYNDAL JACOBS, ALANA LOCKE, NINA-ROSE RAINER, KHLOE RICHARD, CHLOE STANBURRY
Olinka Wives.....	CYNTHIA ALDRIDGE, CARMEN R. GUYNN, KIM KHAVÉ, AREANNA SHEARS
Guard.....	RENNELL PARKER, SR.
Grady.....	JOHN W. LEGGETTE
Bobby.....	HARVEY HOWELL

Ensemble/Understudies/Stand-ins

BOLA ADENIRAN, IVY COLEMAN (NETTIE), FAITH CURTIS (CELIE/SQUEAK),
CHEERAZ GORMON, CARMEN R. GUYNN (SHUG), HARVEY HOWELL, JOHN W. LEGGETTE,
RENNELL PARKER, SR. (VARIOUS), CLIFTON SIMPSON (HARPO), SIERRA K. SMITH,
ASHLEN SOUTHERLAND, TERRELL THOMPSON (PREACHER/MISTER),
GREGORY R. TROUPE II, DARREN WILSON (VARIOUS)

CAST AND CREW

Bola Adeniran (*Nettie*) is excited to return to the stage after a 7-year hiatus. Past productions include *In the Heights*, *Once on this Island*, *Annie*, *Sound of Music*, *Children of Eden*, *Aida* and more. Bola received a Master's Degree in Public Health from Washington University and a Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University. Currently, Bola is a commercial litigation associate at Husch Blackwell. She is so grateful to her family, friends, and coworkers for their support throughout the show process.

Cynthia Aldridge (*Church Lady-Darlene*) is making her debut in musical theater. By profession, she is a college Program Director and instructor. She has completed all the Doctoral requirements along with her residencies and hopes to defend her dissertation early Spring 2024 after taking time off to focus on her career. She is also an author with a published book available on Amazon titled *How to Rock at Your Studies*. Cynthia, also known as "Cynt," has performed in the gospel sector for over 30 years. She has lent her vocal abilities to many gospel artists, groups, choirs, and CD's. Cynthia also played "the family" in a Christmas play called, "Bringing It Home For Christmas," starring Vickie Winans, alongside other members of her then, all ladies group, Psalms. Along with her vocal dimensions, Cynthia also has a natural comedic talent that could not be overlooked in auditions.

Ivy Coleman (*Ensemble, Sofia's sister, Nettie's understudy*) was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and spent most of her childhood growing up in Van Nuys, California, and Osawatomie, Kansas. Exposed to entertainment and theater at an early age, her father was a member of a local band, and her mother was an entertainer for Universal Studios California. At 12 years old, she relocated to her hometown of St. Louis. She found her true passion for theater and the arts in Normandy school district's performing arts program, where she accumulated numerous accolades in various talent shows and theater productions. After high school she pursued a career in nursing that's lasted 20 years. Ivy is a cannabis

Handyman

True Value[®]

HARDWARE & LUMBER

Florissant

2635 N. Hwy. 67

314-831-0220

Florissant

500 W. Washington

314-837-1360

Oakville

5405 Telegraph Rd.

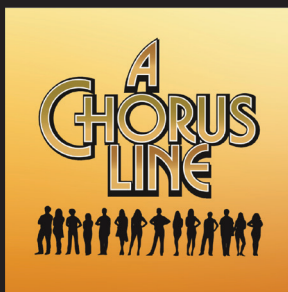
314-894-8800

Shop online 24/7 and ship-to-store for free!

www.handymantruevalue.com



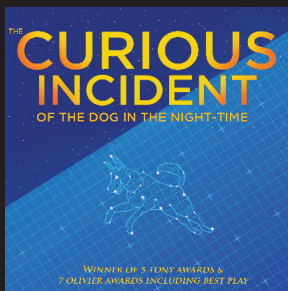
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 ARTS FOR LIFE AWARD WINNERS



Kimberly Klick
Choreography

Melissa Felps
Supporting Actress

Ken Clark
Cameo/Non-Singing Actor



Outstanding Drama

Dan Wolfe
Lead Actor in a Drama

Ken Clark
Set Design of a Play

Eric Wennlund
Lighting Design of a Play

Ken Clark
Direction of a Drama

BEST OF HAWTHORNE

Big Band Holiday Bash

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 - 2:00 PM

Florissant Performing Arts Center

Director: Dottie Bertolino
Music Director: Joe Paule, Sr.

All proceeds benefit Hawthorne's
Duckie DeMere Scholarship Program

advocate and an authorized cultivator in the state of Missouri. Her passion for health and wellness and horticulture can be traced back to her childhood years in Kansas working a small farm with her aunt. After 10 years of marriage and raising a family, Ivy returned to theater for this production. She looks forward to pursuing more acting and performing roles in the future.

Nancy Crouse (*Director*) is a former Hoosier school teacher of English and theatre for 33 years who has compiled hundreds of theatre credits. When she retired from teaching, she became the Managing Artistic Director of her local community theatre and president of the Indiana Theatre Association. After moving to the Florissant area, her first local theatre credit was Mrs. Birling in Hawthorne Players' *An Inspector Calls* in 2001. Since then, she has directed, designed, and performed with a number of area theatre companies, though her first and most repeated area association is with Hawthorne Players (now over 20 productions plus all *Voices of Valhalla* and *Voices at Bellefontaine*—always as a costumer and sometimes as an actress). Hawthorne has recognized her with numerous awards, most recently for Best Director/Set Designer & Best Production for *A Raisin in the Sun* and Best Actress for *Driving Miss Daisy*. In 2021, Nancy directed Act Two Theatre's *Blithe Spirit*, the Arts for Life Theatre Mask Award winner for Best Ensemble and Best Production. She has also won Theatre Mask Awards for Outstanding Direction and Set Design for Clayton Community Theatre's *Macbeth* and Outstanding Lead Actress in the Theatre Guild of Webster Groves' *Trip to Bountiful*, as well as received several other TMA and BPA nominations beginning with her direction of Hawthorne's *Annie Get Your Gun*. Just before the pandemic, she played Mary Tyrone in Slaying Dragon's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and Violet in Kirkwood Theatre Guild's *August, Osage County*. Nancy has also appeared in productions for Alpha Players, Muddy Waters, Stray Dog, New Jewish, West End, and First Run. All these experiences convince her that the St. Louis area offers vibrant community theatre opportunities to new and seasoned participants on stage and to audience members like you that love and support the arts.

Travis Cummings (*Harpo*) is thrilled to return to the stage after four "long" years. He last played the role of Horse in the Black Hills Community Theatre's production of *The Full Monty* in Rapid City, SD. He has appeared in several musicals in his hometown New Orleans, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Godspell*, *Curtains*, and *FAME*. He studied drama at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts for two years. You may recognize Travis from our local airwaves. He is an anchor and reporter at 5 On Your Side. His career has a history in Chattanooga, TN, and Rapid City, SD. He received his B.A. in Communication Arts (Journalism) from Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL. Travis volunteers with youth across St. Louis in different capacities. He is thankful to his family, friends, and the community for the ultimate support and encouragement.

Faith Curtis (*Olivia, Squeak & Celie understudy, Sofia's sister, Ensemble*) is going into her senior year of high school and this is her first out-of-school production that she has ever participated in. Faith has been in eight school shows so far, including plays and musicals. She is involved in marching band, choir, and, obviously, theater at school. This was a really good experience for her to get a taste of a theater world outside of her own. Faith would like to thank her parents for being so supportive in driving her all the way out here for rehearsals. She would also like to thank her boyfriend for encouraging her to do this musical in the first place and helping her through the journey.

Renee L. Fenner (*Assistant Director*) holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts-Acting from Webster University and taught Dunham Technique in Springfield, IL. Renee has worked onstage and offstage with Hawthorne Players for many years. She received a Hawthorne Players' special Duckie Award for her work as assistant director for their 2013 production of *Fences*. In 2015, she won a Hawthorne Award and was nominated for an Arts for Life Award for best comedic actress for her role as Addaperle in Hawthorne's 2014 production of *The Wiz*. Renee served as an assistant director and the choreographer for Hawthorne's multi-awarding winning play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. In 2019, she was cast as part of the ensemble of another Hawthorne multi-awarding winning production, *Footloose*. Renee is an Episcopal priest and serves as rector/pastor of the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension in Northwoods.

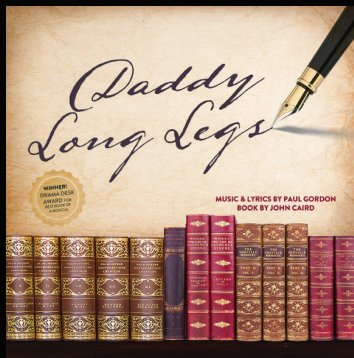
Shug Goodlow (*Dramaturg*) not to be confused with Shug Avery, has worked on several productions with Hawthorne Players and Kirkwood Theatre Guild. She first worked with Director Nancy Crouse and Assistant Director Renee Fenner in 2012 on the Hawthorne Players' production of *Fences*. Shug has worked as Assistant Director, Dramaturg, Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager and several other positions backstage. She has also appeared onstage in several productions over the years, having begun her involvement with community theatre in New York. Shug is an avid theatre and movie buff. By day she is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Missouri. Shug thanks her wife Doris, who is also working on this production, for her unwavering love and support.

Cheeraz Gormon (*Ensemble*) is a writer, storyteller, and public speaker who creates poetry, essays, photography, film, music, and advertising. As a poet, Cheeraz has opened for Dr. Cornel West, Dr. Dennis Kimbro, and MacArthur Fellow Dr. Deborah Willis and toured with HBO for The Unchained Memories Tour. She is a two-time TEDxGatewayArch presenter, and her poetry has been featured in *Ebony Magazine*, *Huffington Post*, the *American Ethnologist*, and featured on albums. Her first poetry collection, *In The Midst of Loving*, was released in 2015. In 2018, Cheeraz starred in The Black Rep's gala production of *The Gospel at Colonus* as the Evangelist Antigone. She returned to the stage in May 2022 for the revival of *Rivers of Women* by the late poet Shirley Bradley LeFlore. In June 2022, she joined the Ashleyliane Dance Company for *Unseen*. In 2016, she was selected as an apexart International Arts Fellow; in 2018, she was named St. Louis Visionary Award, Outstanding Working Artist, and in 2019, she was awarded the prestigious St. Louis Regional Arts Commission Artist Fellow in literary arts. Cheeraz is also a community health worker and, following the tragic loss of her brother, John Gormon, Jr., founded Sibling Support Network, an organization dedicated to assisting people who have lost siblings to violent crime. For this work, she was featured in *TIME Magazine's* 2018 "Guns in America" issue.

**YOU DON'T WANT
TO MISS THIS
SHOW!**



November 3 - 12, 2023



A heart-warming musical about a winsome young woman and her mysterious benefactor.

Starring
Stefanie Kluba as Jerusha
Cole Gutmann as Jervis Pendleton

Directed by Ken Clark
Music Direction by Sean Bippen

WWW.HAWTHORNEPLAYERS.COM

Carmen R. Guynn (*Church Lady-Doris / Shug Avery understudy*) is a native of St. Louis and one of the city's leading Latin dance instructors / performing artists. She is Founder / Owner / Artistic Director of Almas Del Ritmo Dance Company, Owner / Executive Producer of The St. Louis International Salsa Bachata Festival. Regional theater credit: STAGES - St. Louis (*In the Heights*); TV: OWN ("*Welcome to Sweetie Pies*"), Viacom ("*MTV: MADE*"); Choreographer: Gitana Productions (*¡Soy Yo! - I am me! (An Afro-Latina Suite)*). Carmen is passionate about creating spaces that connect the community to art and activism, "ARTIVISM". She uses her dance platform to bring awareness to issues such as racial equality, mental health, and Human Trafficking. To God be the glory! I dance for You. www.adrdancestl.com, @adrdancestl @Stlsalsafest

Jean Heckmann (*Costume Designer*) has costumed many shows for Hawthorne Players, and has always enjoyed working with the actors, actresses and tech crew involved in their shows. To costume *The Color Purple* has been a dream of hers for many years. Jean has been nominated for numerous Theatre Mask awards for costuming, five Best Performance Award nominations, and won best Costume Design for *The Secret Garden* (Hawthorne Players) in 2013, and a TMA for *Plaza Suite* for Act Two Theatre in 2019. Break a leg, actors.

Harvey Howell (*Bobby, Field Hand, Harpo's Friend, Ensemble*) is a local artist who goes by the name ShadeSTL, and this is his first time being part of a Hawthorne production. Harvey is a new father and loves every moment he can spend with his family and friends. He works as a cook at Hawaiian Bros restaurant. He thanks his family and the cast for all the support that they provide.

Jamell Jacobs (*Choreographer*) is a teacher, choreographer, and owner of Dance Plus Dance Studio located in Florissant, MO. She has instructed dance and choreographed for over 20 years, for youth and adults. Jamell has won many regional and national awards for her choreography, and her work has been presented in events such as The

FOOD TREATS DRINKS CAKES LUNCH COMBOS



2678 N. Hwy 67, Florissant
314-837-5655

FREE
Mini
Blizzard



With Purchase of Any Size Blizzard 

With this coupon. Equal or lesser size. Valid at Hwy 67 location only. May not be used with any other offer or discount. One coupon per visit. Exp. 12/31/23.

FREE 
Banana Split or
Peanut Buster Parfait

With Purchase of Banana Split or Peanut Buster Parfait 

With this coupon. Equal or lesser size. Valid at Hwy 67 location only. May not be used with any other offer or discount. One coupon per visit. Exp. 12/31/23.

Muny Pre-Show, St. Louis Dance Festival, Dancing in the Streets, 60X60 and Spring into Dance. The last theater production she worked on was with the Hawthorne Players production of *The Wiz*.

Sharee Jones (*Sofia*) is having her acting debut with this production. She has worked with the Friendly Temple Performing Arts Team on a variety of original productions, but this is her first time on stage in a major role. Sharee has a passion for music and is a vocalist in a number of church and school choirs. Sharee thanks all her family and friends that have encouraged her passions and pushed her to pursue her dreams, especially her mom, Cynthia, who has been the greatest support since day one.

Saraiya Kalu (*Celie*), a first generation Nigerian American, has been involved in dance, music, and theater throughout her childhood. Upon high school graduation, she attended Clafin University where she pursued a Bachelor's of Science in mathematics with a minor concentration in Musical Theater. While at Clafin University, she was active in the theater ensemble, concert choir, wind ensemble, and was a principal dancer in PULSE Dance Company. Saraiya obtained her Master of Science in Computer Science and Master of Science in Applied Mathematics but continues to pursue her love for theater in her free time with various theater companies throughout the St. Louis area, including dancing at the Boom Boom Room. Saraiya is currently working as a data science and software engineering consultant at Daugherty Business Solutions as well as an instructor for Daugherty's Access Point Program.

Kim Khavé (*Church Lady*) is a native Californian, originally from Los Angeles and now living in St. Louis. Born into a gifted musical family, Kim naturally gravitated at a young age to live music, melodic vocals, and the desire to use her voice to positively impact others. She currently studies with world-renowned baritone Garrett Liam States, and in addition to her impressive singing abilities, Kim also shines as an actor, having played the Roberts Orpheum Theatre, the Blanche M. Touhill Center, and the 560 Music Center, to name a few. Kim has appeared in a number of faith-based stage plays and she has starred in six independent films, three of which are currently available on Amazon Prime and Tubi TV.

John W. Leggette (*Preacher, Grady, Harpo's Friend, Ensemble*) is a native St. Louisan and alumnus of Lincoln University of Missouri. He is a 21-year veteran of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and is currently assigned to the Bureau of Investigative Services where he serves as a detective in the Juvenile Division. He has performed in multiple musicals and stage plays. In 2014, he was cast as *The Wiz* in Hawthorne Players *The Wiz*, a role that garnered him an Arts for Life Best Performance Award. In 2010, John founded the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Choir, one of only three police choirs in the U.S. He toured the country with Dr. Phil Woodmore and The Phil Woodmore Singers as one of four lead soloists in *Antigone in Ferguson* (AIF), a musical/dramatic reading that completed a four-week run at New York's Harlem Stage in 2018 and returned to New York for an additional 11-week off-Broadway run in Brooklyn. John traveled with AIF for the show's premiere in Athens, Greece in June 2017. He was a featured soloist in *The Drum Major Instinct*, an adaptation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's 1968 sermon combined with original gospel music, which made its premiere in Athens, Greece in June 2018. He performs at various events for the SLMPD as well as other city functions. He has sung the national anthem for the mayoral inauguration of Tishaura Jones and for the St. Louis City SC Major League Soccer game at CityPark. John also serves on the Praise Team at Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church.

Jermaine Manor (*Music Director*) enjoys a versatile career as an instructor of voice, a conductor, and collaborative pianist. He is a native of Miami, a graduate of the prestigious New World School of the Performing Arts, and an alumnus of Auburn University, where he earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Pedagogy as well as his Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting. He has completed certifications in Commercial Music from Berklee College of Music and Church Music from The Royal School of Church Music (Croydon, England). Jermaine brings to his singing and voice instruction a special understanding of the way the voice and body works, which sets him apart in his ability to communicate pedagogically and artistically. In addition to his work at Webster University, he is the co-artistic director of the Vocal Company at the Center of Creative Arts. He also has a solid working relationship with The Repertory and

Be part of something wonderful

We can only produce quality shows like this one with the time and effort of our wonderful volunteers.

Whether you are handy or simply have hands, there is something you can do.

Meet others who enjoy the theatre experience and be part of your community.

Find out how you can join our family, call 314-368-9909 or email HawthornePlayers@att.net



Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. He is often called to coach, create and work on various projects, from coaching a pianist in Noël Cowards' 3-act play, *Private Lives* to composing, arranging, and recording original music for *James and the Giant Peach* and *Edward Tulane* for the The Rep's ITC program. As a clinician, Manor is often brought in to not only teach vocal technique, pedagogy and health, but he is sought after to present on racial inclusion and diversity in the arts. He's a strong proponent of diverse musical representation and believes you should not be put in a box based on your race. Music has no color, only styles, he says, "Sing what you want to sing, no matter what color you are." As an active composer, his music is sung regularly by ensembles throughout the US and abroad. He has published and arranged many songs with his longtime friend and collaborator, Dr. Brandon Boyd. Jermaine lives by the mantra, "What I do is a get to, not a have to."

Rennell Parker, Sr. (*Pa, Field Hand, Guard, Mister's stand-in, Ensemble*) is a proud husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew, and friend, whose purpose is to protect, provide for, and push his family and others to dream out loud, achieving all that they desire. His family means the world to him. In addition to Rennell's family responsibilities, he is a proud veteran of the United States Navy, actor, poet, published author, activist, coach, educator, and mentor. Professionally, he is a Positive Psychology Coach, Consultant, Certified InsideOut Coach, Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and Business Process Professional. Rennell's acting catalog consists of *Clara and the Hard Nut* (2008), *Reality Check* (2012), *Shakespeare in the Park, Romeo and Juliet* (2013), *There's a Right and Wrong Way to Love* (2013), *The Meeting* (2014), *Sideshow* (2014) *The Wiz* (2014), *Prince Handsomely* (2015), *Voices of Valhalla* (2015), and *The Underground Railroad* (2017).

Natalie Piacentini (Set and Projection Designer) is a local artist and professional theatre technician who puts her talent and creativity into projects on and off the stage. Natalie has a passion for people and bringing art to our community. She is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the team that is bringing this important and emotional story to life.

Victoria E. Pines (*Shug Avery*) is appearing in her first production with Hawthorne Players. Her most recent roles were Lindsay in *Godspell* for Take Two Productions, Berenice Sadie Brown in *The Member of the Wedding* at Clayton Community Theatre and Dr. Tracey Lake in *Watch Night* at Theatre Guild of Webster Groves. By day, Victoria is an EPIC Applications Analyst at Washington University School of Medicine and enjoys riding her motorcycle and most water activities. She thanks Sean and her daughter and son and 12 grandchildren for their continued love and support.

Corrinna Redford (*Squeak, Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making her St. Louis theatre debut with the Hawthorne Players. Since relocating from Georgia, she has enjoyed getting to know St. Louis and all it offers. Corrinna received her BA in Theatre from Brenau University: Women's College with an emphasis in acting. She enjoys reading, lifting weights, and dancing in her spare time. By day she delights in assisting customers as a customer success manager with XTRA Lease. She thanks her parents for always supporting her 'wild' ideas and personality. You can see her later in August in Tesseract theater's production of *Kinky Boots*.

Adrian L. Rice (*Mister*) A musician since the age of 12, Adrian has always found himself on stage. Born and raised in Mobile, AL, he has diligently served as choir director, minister of music and musician in Texas and Alabama. He has been an active musician, choir director and Minister of Music for over 20 years and currently serves as an Ordained Elder, Drama Lead and Worship Leader at New Life In Christ Church in O'Fallon, IL. A graduate of Faulkner University Montgomery, AL, he also found numerous opportunities to use his creative writing and speaking abilities throughout his college career.

Mark Rogers (*Fight Coordinator*) is making his debut as a fight coordinator for a theatrical production. Mark has studied martial arts since the age of 16 and holds a 2nd degree black belt in Taekwondo and a 1st degree black belt in Hapkido. He was a founding



VOICES AT BELLEFONTAINE

SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1, 2023

Join us for theatre and history in a cemetery. Audience members travel through the lovely grounds by trolley. At each shaded location, guests will disembark and be seated, and some of St. Louis' best actors bring these characters to life.

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for details
www.HawthornePlayers.com

Tickets on sale now at www.BellfontaineCemetery.org

member of Team Extreme and has several years of experience in choreographing hand-to-hand combat demonstrations, as well as teaching martial arts and self-defense classes. Mark is no stranger to the stage, however, as he has been the production manager for his daughter's dance studios for several years, winning a national award for "Best Prop Dad" and building props for nationally acclaimed choreographers. Mark is a carpenter by trade, a "Prop Dad" by choice, and a self-proclaimed "Prop Husband" by fate.

Ryan Schaper (*Sound Designer*) is a sound designer, lighting designer, and technical director who frequently consults on productions in the St. Louis area. He currently serves as the technical director at Technical Productions, Inc., where he does sales and installations for performance spaces. Previous credits include O'Fallon Theater Works' *Puffs*, Lighting Design; OTW's *Be More Chill*, Lighting and Projection Design; Vivre Theatre's *Tuck Everlasting*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Newsies*, Technical Director.

Areanna Shears (*Church Lady*) is a unique talent that brings her comedic relatability and professional stage presence to any performance. She is one-third of the St. Louis-based a capella group, Poetic Sounds, who have performed at Busch Stadium, Missouri History Museum, and Washington University. When she's not on stage, Areanna is a regional community manager traveling across five states to train and support multi-family apartment communities with Timberland Partners. To hear her spontaneous musicality and fresh takes on life and faith, you can support her podcast, *The Rendezvous Podcast*, on all streaming platforms.

Clifton Simpson (*Bartender, Adam, Field Hand, Harpo's Friend, Harpo's understudy, Ensemble*) is making his musical debut with the Hawthorne Players. He enjoys the outdoors, is an avid pickleball player and enjoys hiking. By day he works as a Department of Homeland Security employee. He thanks his family and friends for their loving support.

Sierra Smith (*Sofia's sister, Ensemble*) is a St. Louis-based actor. She has been involved in some theatrical and film projects in the community. Some of her artistic involvement includes: *The Wiz* (Hawthorne Players), *Doubt* (Theatre Guild of Webster Groves), and *Dreamgirls* (Stray Dog Theater). She is excited to have the chance to work with The Hawthorne Players once more.

Ashlen Southerland (*Dance Captain, Sofia's sister, Ensemble*) is debuting with the Hawthorne Players as one of Sophia's sisters and an ensemble member. She is excited as this is her first time on stage after a 10-year hiatus. Southerland began performing at the young age of four years old when she started to take dance lessons. She later picked up piano and voice lessons. She continued her music and dance studies through high school and college, where she attended Missouri Valley College. There she received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education with a minor in dance. During the day, Southerland teaches music classes at Cold Water Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District. Southerland is excited to be back on stage with this fantastic cast and crew.

Cindi Switzer-Bell (*Stage Manager*) This is Cindi's first time stage managing for Hawthorne Players, although this isn't her first show. Cindi has enjoyed working with and learning from "NanC" and Renee. Cindi also has done a lot of specialty scenic painting for various productions at Act Two Theatre. Cindi holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Eastern Illinois University, where she concentrated in Acting and Scenic Design. Favorite roles are Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Hester Solomon in *Equus*, Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and Grace in *Bus Stop*. She won a Normy award (equivalent of an Arts for Life Award here in St. Louis) for costuming *La Cage Aux Folles* for Peoria Players (IL), where she was General Manager for six years. Cindi is a retired Special Ed, Speech and Drama teacher and coach (where her team won Third Place in the IHSA State Tournament in 2009). She is now a retired "Mimi" of three amazing, smart, and talented grandkids! Cindi thanks her dog, Benny, for his patience during rehearsals and for always greeting her at the front door when she returns.

Terrell Thompson (*Chief of Olinka, Field Hand, Harpo's Friend, Ensemble, Preacher, Mister and Pa's understudy*) has been in several productions with Act Two, Clayton Community Theater and Overdue Theater. He recently finished *The Full Monty* with Act Two. Terrell took piano and voice at Eastern Illinois University. He performs with Gateway Men's

Chorus and Black Tulip Choral in St Louis. Terrell works for a home care agency and enjoys doing karaoke with his friends. Terrell would like to give thanks for the support of his family.

Gregory R Troupe II (*Buster, Field Hand, Harpo's Friend, and Ensemble*) is a St. Louis native who takes great pride in his Midwestern roots. Being a husband and a father of four, he is a man centered by his family. Professionally he is an educator working in area middle schools for the past 10+ years helping to mold the minds of the future. In addition to being a stage performing actor he is also a singer and songwriter and music producer. His acting catalogue includes *The Battle Is Not Yours* (2012), *The Juice Box Diaries* (2014), and *To Kill A Mockingbird* (2017).

Eric Wennlund (*Light Designer*) is a multiple Arts for Life Best Performance Award winning lighting designer, having most recently won for Hawthorne Players' *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* last fall. He is happy to be working with Nancy again having been on her production team a number of times going back to 2003's *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Darren Wilson (*Ol' Mister, Field Hand, Harpo's Friend, Ensemble*) is a tenured performing arts professional with an extensive, diverse curricula vitae in such. He is the founder and senior executive consultant of Allusion Entertainment Productions, a multifaceted live entertainment company. He has produced several productions from intimate comedy and musical acts to major musical concerts and productions in multiple cities. Wilson has appeared in many theatrical productions in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Some of his performances include Psalms 150 Theatre Company's *I Am God* and *The Cutting Edge of Christ*; Dr. Benjamin Mays in *Only Just a Minute*; Royal Gatekeeper in Hawthorne Players' *The Wiz* (Best Cameo Actor); and Gabriel in the Hawthorne Players' production of August Wilson's *Fences* (Best Supporting Actor). Wilson is a former Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown. Wilson plans to continue progressing in his theatre & performing arts career, expanding his production portfolio, and furthering his social and community engagement across the globe.

Hawthorne Players Duckie DeMere Scholarship

Since 1992 Hawthorne Players has presented over \$65,000 in scholarships to high school seniors active in the performing arts. The Scholarships are named in memory of veteran Hawthorne actress and director, Duckie DeMere.

The purpose of these scholarships is to further community arts in general, encourage high school students to become involved in community theatre and increase youth involvement in Hawthorne Players.



2023 RECIPIENTS

L to R: Ulises Hernandez, Ritenour;

Cordie Matulewic, Pattonville;

Angie Houghton, Ritenour;

Acacia Helton, Ritenour;

Not Pictured: Sarah Nelson, Pattonville

Join us for dinner before a
show or for a drink after!



Business Hours

Dine-in and Carry-out

MON	11am - 4pm
TUES	11am - 9pm
WED	11am - 9pm
THURS	11am - 9pm
FRI	11am - 10pm
SAT	11am - 10pm
SUN	Closed

Bring your ticket in for a **FREE**
pint of beer or soda on the day of the show!