# PLAYBILL

### HOLLYWOOD PANTAGES THEATRE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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### THEATRE QUIZ: DISNEY ON BROADWAY

By Andrew Gans

Disney Theatrical Productions, which was formed in 1994, operates under the direction of Thomas Schumacher. Its 10 Broadway titles have been seen by more than 200 million theatregoers worldwide, and those shows have earned 62 Tony nominations, winning Broadway's top honor 20 times. Can you identify some of Disney Theatrical Productions' Broadway outings pictured below? Clues are provided, and answers are upside down at the bottom of the page.

- 1. Disney Theatrical Productions entered the Broadway arena in 1994 with this Alan Menken-Howard Ashman-Linda Woolverton-Tim Rice musical based on the 1991 animated film of the same name. The Tony-nominated musical played 13 years on Broadway and has been produced in 37 countries worldwide.
- 2. This Tony-winning Best Musical opened on Broadway in November 1997 at the New Amsterdam and continues its record-breaking run at the Minskoff. The international hit was directed by Julie Taymor, who became the first woman to win the Best Director of a Musical Tony Award.
- 3. In March 2000, this musical, featuring a score by Elton John and Tim Rice, opened at Broadway's Palace Theatre with a cast led by Heather Headley, Adam Pascal, and Sherie Rene Scott. Directed by Robert Falls, the production won four Tony Awards, including one for Headley's performance in the title role.
- 4. Everyone's favorite nanny took center stage in this Disney co-production with Cameron Mackintosh, which premiered in London in 2004 before arriving on Broadway in 2006. Based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the 1964 Disney film starring Julie Andrews, the musical was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.
- 5. This Alan Menken-Howard Ashman-Tim Rice-Chad Beguelin musical, which opened in March 2014 at Broadway's New Amsterdam Theatre, where it continues, is based on the 1992 Disney film of the same name. The musical was nominated for five 2014 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, winning James Monroe Iglehart the award for his performance as the Genie
- 6. Based on the 2013 Disney film, which featured the Oscar-winning "Let It Go," this musical, with a score by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez and a book by Jennifer Lee, opened on Broadway in March 2018, earning Tony nominations for Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Original Score.



nozori .d nibbelA .d zniqqof yeM .4 ebiA .E gniX noil off .2 zzead off bus yeagin G. Frozen

## The Lion King Still Roars

Composer Lebo M. on the 25th anniversary of the Broadway juggernaut. By Dan Meyer

n 2022, *The Lion King* celebrates its 25th birthday on Broadway. The beloved Disney property, which currently plays the Minskoff Theatre and other venues around the world, is a compelling example of the power of theatricality to capture hearts of audiences. As stages begin to welcome audiences back following the global shutdown of theatres due to the COVID-19 pandemic, composer Lebo M., who wrote songs for both the movie and the musical, reflected on the past 25 years (and beyond). "All this work feels like the first time. The energy never





stops, I don't feel the void. The excitement is the same and it's surreal."

That's because the show gives audiences the opportunity to feel an intimate connection with a property they are already familiar with. Many audience members come in knowing the plot of *The Lion King*, so the story doesn't hold too many surprises—the show's magic is found in the production value instead. "It's the political structures, *The Lion King* shows that discrimination can be easily promoted by those with a powerful voice, as exemplified by Simba's antagonistic uncle.

Not all social effects are bad, though. "I think of *The Lion King* as a sermon. There are so many different subjects, relevant to church and humans. The difference is that preaching from a political lens is negative.

## "The live effect of theatre is undeniable in carrying the story and touching people's lives."

key formula to the success of the franchise," says Lebo M. Take the work of director and designer Julie Taymor, add the music, and you get something that creates a spectacle with emotional resonance.

"Nothing beats the Broadway show," says Lebo M. "The live effect of theatre is undeniable in carrying the story and touching people's lives."

Even when it comes to the darker side of the story, Lebo M. sees something important that audiences relate to. His favorite character is Scar, who "creates a very necessary evil that juxtaposes the good and the bad. When you reflect on that, you can personalize it, because we all have good and bad in family, community, and country."

The composer highlights that there's even a layer of prescience in *The Lion King* when it comes to Scar, reflecting on the character's ability to convince a group of hyenas to take over Pride Rock. Sound familiar? "When you look at the element of manipulation, it's also relevant in real life. Social effect is one of the themes of the show." Just as with real-life The musical, though, inspires people to be positive."

Lebo M. adds that *The Lion King* also has significant parallels to South African history. "Literally, it is as old as democracy. It might be an animated cartoon, but Mufasa is inspired by Nelson Mandela. Scar becomes the old apartheid, the meaning of racism and negativity. The character and manifestation of the hyenas is plotting and a device that politicians use, but ultimately the positive wins."

As for what happens next for *The Lion King*, Lebo M. isn't sure if he, or anyone, is able to make a prediction. "That's a fact due to the economics of the day. Fortunately, I think being in the creative sector is the natural human spirit to want to experience live entertainment, especially one that has positive messaging."

The sustainability of any project, including *The Lion King*, is based on the substance and quality. Given it's already been a quarter of a century, it's probably safe for Lebo M. to say, "there'll always be a demand, because there's always a spirit to be inspired."

## HOLLYWOOD PANTAGES THEATRE

March 1-26, 2023

## DISNED LION KING

Music & Lyrics by **ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE** 

Additional Music & Lurics bu

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

Book bu

**ROGER ALLERS & IRENE MECCHI** 

Starrina

PETER HARGRAVE GERALD RAMSEY MUKELISIWE GOBA NICK CORDILEONE NICK LAMEDICA JOHN E. BRADY DARIAN SANDERS KHALIFA WHITE 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. KALILAH BLACK LAYLA BRENT CHRISTIN BYRDSONG DANIELA COBB LYRIC DANAE NTOMB'KHONA DLAMINI CAMILLE EANGA-SELENGE MARQUIS FLOYD TONY FREEMAN JOEL KARIE SAMAREE LAWSON GABISILE MANANA AMBER MAYBERRY CHRISTOPHER L. MCKENZIE, JR. JUSTIN MENSAH NHLANHLA NDLOVU AARON NELSON JEREMY NOEL SICELO NTSHANGASE SAYIGA EUGENE PEABODY YAEL PINEDA-HALL CHRISTOPHER SAMS MAIA SCHECHTER ALLISON DANIELLE SEMMES T. SHYVONNE STEWART JENNIFER THERIOT COURTNEY THOMAS JORDAN NICOLE WILLIS SHERMAN WOOD

> Adapted from the screenplay by IRENE MECCHI & JONATHAN ROBERTS & LINDA WOOLVERTON

> > Produced by

PETER SCHNEIDER & THOMAS SCHUMACHER

Scenic Design Costume Design Lighting Design RICHARD HUDSON JULIE TAYMOR DONALD HOLDER

Mask & Puppet Design JULIE TAYMOR & MICHAEL CURRY

Sound Desian STEVE CANYON KENNEDY Hair & Makeup Desian MICHAEL WARD

Music Supervisor CLEMENT ISHMAEL

Associate Director ANTHONY LYN Associate Choreographer MAREY GRIFFITH

Technical Director General Manager THOMAS SCHLENK PATRICK EVISTON

BRIAN WESTMORELAND

Production Stage Manager Production Supervisor LISA DAWN CAVE

Fight Director

Music Director KARL SHYMANOVITZ

Music Produced for the Stage & Additional Score bu MARK MANCINA

ROBERT ELHAI Additional Vocal Score,

Associate Music Producer

Vocal Arrangements & Choral Director LEBO M

MICHAEL KELLER RICK SORDELET Orchestrators ROBERT ELHAI

DAVID METZGER

Music Coordinator

Casting BINDER CASTING/ BRUCE FOWLER MARK BRANDON, CSA

© Disney

Co-Producer ANNE QUART

Choreoaraphu bu GARTH FAGAN Directed bu

JULIE TAYMOR



(in order of appearance)	
RAFIKI	ukelisiwe Goba
MUFASA	
Allison Da	
ZAZUl	
SCAR	
YOUNG SIMBA (at certain performances) Jaylen Lyndon Hunter, Jo	ordan Pendleton
YOUNG NALA (at certain performances)Scarlett London Diviney,	. Farrah Wilson
SHENZI	
BANZAI	
ED	
TIMONN	
РИМВАА	.John E. Brady
SIMBA	Darian Sanders
NALA	
ENSEMBLE SINGERS Derek Adams, Isaiah Bailey, Kalilah Black, Ntomb'k	chone Diamini
ENSEMILLE SINGERS Derek Adams, Isalan Baney, Kaman Black, Nollio	
Camille Eanga-Selenge, Joel Karie, Gabisile Manana, Nh	
Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel, Sicelo Ntshangase, Ya	el Pineda-Hall,
Christopher Sams, Allison Danielle Semmes, Jo	ennifer Theriot
ENSEMBLE DANCERS	Marquis Floyd
Samaree Lawson, Amber Mayberry, Sayiga Eu	
Maia Schechter, Courtney Thomas, Jordan Nicole Willis, S	
STANDBYS SCAR: William John Austin, Tony Freeman; ZAZU: '	
TIMON: Tony Freeman; PUMBAA: William John Austin,	, Tony Freeman
•	-

### UNDERSTUDIES

(Understudies never substitute for listed players unless announced at the time of the performance) Rafiki-Ntomb'khona Dlamini, Gabisile Manana, Yael Pineda-Hall;

Mufasa- Isaiah Bailey, Aaron Nelson, Christopher Sams; Sarabi-Kalilah Black, Daniela Cobb, Camille Eanga-Selenge, Yael Pineda-Hall, T. Shyvonne Stewart, Jennifer Theriot;

Zazu-Robbie Swift; Scar-Aaron Nelson;

Shenzi-Kalilah Black, Daniela Cobb, T. Shyvonne Stewart, Jennifer Theriot;

*Banzai*-Derek Adams, Joel Karie, Justin Mensah, Nhlanhla Ndlovu; *Ed*-Eric Bean, Jr., Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr., Courtney Thomas;

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

Nala-Kalilah Black, Camille Eanga-Selenge, Allison Danielle Semmes, Jennifer Theriot

SWINGS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Eric Bean, Jr., Christin Byrdsong, Daniela Cobb, Lyric Danae, Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr., Justin Mensah, T. Shyvonne Stewart

### DANCE CAPTAINS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr.

SPECIALTIES

Circle of Life Vocals-Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Sicelo Ntshangase; Mouse Shadow Puppet-Sicelo Ntshangase; Ant Hill Lady–Jordan Nicole Willis; Guinea Fowl–Marquis Floyd; Buzzard Pole–Samaree Lawson; Gazelle Wheel–Maia Schechter; Gazelles–Marquis Floyd, Sherman Wood; Lioness Chant Vocal–Sicelo Ntshangase; Acrobatic Trickster-Sayiga Eugene Peabody; Giraffe Shadow Puppets-Isaiah Bailey, Jeremy Noel; Cheetah-Amber Mayberry; Still Giraffe-Courtney Thomas; Scar Shadow Puppet- Isaiah Bailey, Jeremy Noel, Christopher Sams; Simba Shadow Puppet-Derek Adams, Joel Karie, Aaron Nelson, Sicelo Ntshangase; One By One Vocal- Ntomb'khona Dlamini, Sicelo Ntshangase; One By One Dance-Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Christopher Sams; Fireflies-Jordan Nicole Willis; Pumbaa Pole Puppet-Samaree Lawson; Nala Pole Puppet-Amber Mayberry; Lioness/Hyena Shadow Puppets- Kalilah Black, Ntomb'khona Dlamini, Camille Eanga-Selenge, Gabisile Manana, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Yael Pineda-Hall, Jennifer Theriot.

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

### ORCHESTRA

Conductor-Karl Shymanovitz

Associate Conductor-Dean Balan

Keyboard 1-Eric Banitt; Keyboard 2/Assistant Conductor-Paul McCaffrey;

Guitar (Electric/Acoustic Nylon/Ukulele/Kalimba)-Brian LaFontaine\*;

Bass (Electric/Frelless/Acoustic)–Michael Valerio\*; Drums/Percussion–John Mader\*; Marimba–Mike Faue; Percussion–Stefan Monssen, Reuven Weizberg; Flutes–Darlene Drew; French Horn–Emily Pesavento\*.

Music Coordinator-Michael Keller Local Orchestra Contractor: Eric Heinly

\*All Local Musicians are members of AFM Local 47.

Based on the Disney film

### 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

> **PLAYBILL.COM/VAULT** HOLLYWOOD PANTAGES THEATRE 7

## **SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS**

	ACTORE
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"
Scene 9	Elephant Graveyard
	"Be Prepared"Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Ensemble
Scene 10	The Gorge
Scene 11	Pride Rock
	"Be Prepared" (Reprise) Scar, Ensemble
	"Nao Tse Tsa"Rafiki, Sarabi, Young Nala
Scene 12	Rafiki's Tree
Scene 13	The Desert/The Jungle
	"Hakuna Matata"
	ACT TWO
Entr'acte	"One by One" Ensemble
Scene 1	Scar's Cave
	"The Madness of King Scar"
Scene 2	The Pridelands
	"Shadowland"Nala, Rafiki, Ensemble
Scene 3	The Jungle
Scene 4	Under the Stars
	"Endless Night"
Scene 5	Rafiki's Tree
Scene 6	The Jungle
	"Can You Feel the Love Tonight"Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble
	"He Lives in You" (Reprise) Rafiki, Simba, Ensemble
Scene 7	Pride Rock
	"King of Pride Rock"/"Circle of Life" (Reprise)Ensemble

### THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Please be aware that this production contains strobe light effects.

### 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.

**PLAYBILL.COM/VAULT** 

## THE LION KING

Disney Theatrical Productions welcomes you to this performance.

With our partners at this theatre, we are committed to providing a welcoming space for everyone to share in the irreplaceable experience of live theater.

Thank you for your participation in making touring Broadway a diverse and inclusive place, where everyone feels they belong, are respected and free from discrimination.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**PETER HARGRAVE** (*Scar*). Beyond a dream to be in the Pridelands. Credits Off-Broadway and regionally including Cleveland Play House, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Disney Cruise Line. TV: "Law & Order: SVU," "FBI," "Godfather of Harlem," "Dynasty" and "Madam Secretary." Training: CWRU/CPH MFA. Thanks isn't enough for Harris, JJ, Halley, Matt, and The Lion King family. For Mom, Dad, and my everything, Kat.

GERALD RAMSEY (*Mufasa*) is grateful to continue this journey across the continent with *The Lion King*. Born in Tacoma, Washington – Raised in Aunu'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*<sup>-</sup>: *The Breath of Life, Rainbows of Paradise, The Ali'i Luau* at The Polynesian Cultural Center. *Tupulaga O Samoa Mo A Taeao* 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

**MUKELISIWE GOBA** (*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.

NICK CORDILEONE (Timon). OFF-BROAD-WAY: Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd (Mint Theater), Hamlet (Theatre by the Blind). REGIONAL: The Alchemist (Shakespeare Theatre Company); Lobby Hero (The Old Globe); Crime and Punishment (Cincinnati Playhouse and Actors Theatre); Henry VI, Richard III (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); Comedy of Errors, Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey). FILMTV: Step Up 2, "Warrior" Season 3 (HBO Max). LOVE: Amy, Hero, & Guthrie. Instagram: @Milquetoastpoints.

NICK LAMEDICA (Zazu). Broadway Tour & Tokyo: WAR HORSE. Off Broadway: The Mint. Regional: Denver Center, The Rep St. Louis, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, TheaterWorks Hartford, City Theatre Company, Barrington Stage Company, Two River Theater. NY: American Globe Theatre. Television: "Chicago Fire." BFA: Marymount Manhattan College. All my love to Kate and my parents. www.NickLaMedica.com

**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

KHALIFA WHITE (Nala). "To whom much is given much is required." Broadway: Caroline or Change, Off-Broadway: Little Shop of Horrors (Ronnette), School of Rock 1st Nat; Aida (Aida), Ain't Misbehavin, The Bodyguard, Smokey Joe's Cafe, Dreamgirls, Beehive, Hairspray, HKDLIWDW(Nala/Tiana/Kibibi)/NCL, #The-SearchForRoxie, UCF Alumknight. Thank you God, family, friends & Dave. Check out "You Ok? (Black Girl)" on all streaming platforms. IGITiktok: @Lifaland, www.khalifawhite.com. -For Mommy, my Expressionist.

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.theheARTmission.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 @scarlettlndn

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, tía, tío, Mamí, 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* (Goodspeed). Commercial: Fujifilm, Shea Moisture, Toyota, Con Edison. Love to my family & friends. @iman.ayana

**ISAIAH 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.isaiahbailey.com . "You are abundantly loved." @sangisaiah

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

KALILAH BLACK (*Ensemble*, *Understudy Nala*, *Shenzi & Sarabi*) is delighted and humbled to be back on stage after such a trying time for theatre and the arts. She is fueled by her family and friends' unwavering support. Such gratitude for the most high! IG:@kalilahblack www.kalilahblack.com

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

DANIELA COBB (Swing, 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

NTOMB'KHONA DLAMINI (Ensemble/Understudy Rafiki) is from South Africa and was in the original Broadway casts of *The Lion King* and Sarafina. Her soundtrack credits include Power of One, Fantasia, and PBS Children's Network Between the Lions. All thanks to The Creator, the late Rev. SB Dlamini, my mom, husband and son.

**CAMILLE EANGA-SELENGE** (Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Sarabi). Broadway: Paradise Square, The Book of Mormon. Selected Regional: Little Shop of Horrors, Billy Elliot the Musical, Caroline, or Change. Elated to join the pride! Love to mom, Michael, family and friends, and Talent House @camilove90

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!

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

**JOEL KARIE** (*Ensemble, Understudy Banzai*) is happy to be returning to *The Lion King* after performing in the Broadway and German companies. Other credits include *Aida* (Germany), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (UK), *With A Song In My Heart* (UK), *Dancing in the Streets* (West End), *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (West End), and proud uncle to Kennedi (Tampa). After telling this story in 4 languages, in 3 foreign countries, Joel is thrilled to be performing on America's national tour.

**SAMAREE LAWSON** (*Ensemble*) began training at Dance Institute of Washington, in addition to Dance Theatre of Harlem, Kansas City Ballet and The Alvin Ailey School. Samaree has worked with Kevin Malone, Hope Boykin and Anthony Burrell. This is Samaree's Broadway debut.

**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.

AMBER MAYBERRY (Ensemble) is returning from her Broadway debut in *The Lion King*. Tours: *The Lion King* (Gazelle, Rafiki). Regional favorites: *Oklahoma, On the Town* (5th Avenue). Concert Dance: Elisa Monte, Spectrum Dance Theater, The Trey McIntyre Project. BFA, SUNY Purchase. For my Parents. www.ambernicolemayberry.com

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.

NHLANHLA NDLOVU (Ensemble, Understudy Banzai). A South African native, Nhlanhla 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.

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 (Marriott Lincolnshire). Thanks to Binder Casting. Here to Persevere!

YAEL PINEDA-HALL (Ensemble, 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.

MAIA SCHECHTER (Ensemble). It is an honor to be a member of *The Lion King*! Training: University of Maryland Baltimore County, BA. Credits: The Met Gala: "In America," English with An Accent (GALA Hispanic Theatre), *The Missing*  *Fruit* (Sadler's Wells Digital Season). Love to my family and friends.

ALLISON DANIELLE SEMMES (Sarabi, Ensemble, Understudy Nala). Grateful to join the Pride! Chicago Native. Broadway: Motown the Musical (Diana Ross), Book of Mormon. Favorite Credits: Kennedy Center, Jazz at the Lincoln Center & BAM. Thank ya Lord, my Family & Dave! Psalm 23. @\_allisongstress

**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 (Ensemble, 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











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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

**JORDAN NICOLE WILLIS** (*Ensemble*). Native of Dallas, TX, Jordan Willis received her education from Booker T. Washington HSPVA and Point Park University. Since graduating she's performed with The Black Iris Project, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, Open Dance Project and B.MOORE Dance.

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 Tempest; 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<sup>®</sup> 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, including 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 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 *Ouincy 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<sup>®</sup> nominee and multi-platinum, threetime 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>, 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 Ailev 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 Designer for Industry (RDI). In 2003 he won the Gold Medal for set design at the Prague Quadrenniale, 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

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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<sup>®</sup> 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) 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 with 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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.

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 Ailev 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 co-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 Cavalcaders 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<sup>®</sup> and Drama Desk nominee has arranged and orchestrated Oscar<sup>®</sup>, GRAMMY<sup>®</sup>, and Emmy<sup>®</sup>-winning music for composers Elliot Goldenthal (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<sup>®</sup>, Grammy<sup>®</sup>, and Drama Desk<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>, Grammy<sup>®</sup>, Tony<sup>®</sup>, and Emmy<sup>®</sup> 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 *Frozen, 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). 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, The King and I, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Fiddler on the Roof, Annie Warbucks. Select Off-Broadway: Forbidden Broadway, Wanda's World, Broadway Kids Sing Broadway. Other credits include Crossroads Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, Arkansas Rep, Syracuse Stage, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Eliot Feld's Ballet Tech, Connecticut Ballet and more. For my parents, family, and friends for unending support. 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 Stritch: 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 Parq, 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

SARAH ELIZABETH FORD (Sub Stage Manager) is thrilled to be joining the team in the Pridelands. NYC: Park Avenue Armory; UN General Assembly's Sustainable Development Goals; Brooklyn Academy of Music; Roundabout Underground; Ridge Theatre; the 24 Hour Play Company. Regional & Touring: Studio Theatre; PCPA; Global Citizen's #ShowUpVote Campaign; the Bridge Project: As You Like It & The Tempest (BAM & world tour); Fela! The Concert at the Adelaide & Auckland Arts Festivals; Singapore Repertory Theatre; MAPP International Productions. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

**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). Broadway: Aladdin, Other Desert Cities. 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). 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 respect for our roots and a commitment to growth. www.bindercasting.com

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<sup>®</sup>, Golden Globe<sup>®</sup> and Academy Award<sup>®</sup> 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 ten Broadway titles have been seen by more than 200 million theatregoers and have been nominated for 62 Tony® Awards, winning Broadway's highest honor 20 times. 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 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 made theatrical history with the opening of 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 the win the award. Surpassing 25 landmark years on Broadway, it has welcomed 112 million visitors worldwide to date and has nine productions currently running worldwide. The Lion

King has played over 100 cities in 24 countries on every continent except Antarctica; its worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or 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 Awardwinning 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 ten-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 acclaimed 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 eleven productions around the globe and been seen by more than 14 million guests. Its newest hit, the 2018 Tony-nominated Best Musical Frozen 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 theatres 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. With 24 productions currently produced or licensed, a Disney musical is being performed professionally somewhere on the planet virtually every hour of the day.

### **Opening Night – February 4, 2023**

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Mark Brandon, CSA Chad Eric Murnane, CSA, Amber Snead, CSA Kyle Coker, Anthony Pichette, Jarrett Reiche Part of RWS Entertainment Group, Ryan Stana CEO

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COMPANY MANAGER  JOSE SOLIVAN    Assistant Company Manager  Shelly Cohen    Production Stage Manager.  Brian Westmoreland    Resident Director  Keith Bennett    Resident Dance Supervisor  Geoff Myers    Musical Director / Conductor.  Karl Shymanovitz
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This production is produced in collaboration with our professional, union-represented employees.
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 <b>Touring Green</b> . We transport our theatrical equipment on a carbon neutral basis with Clark Transfer in association with NativeEnergy.com. For more information on this program, please visit www.clarktransfer.com/green.
The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
The Stagehands, Wardrobe, Makeup and Hair employees in this production are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.
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The Musicians, Conductors, Music Preparation Personnel and Librarians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.
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SONG EXCERPTS (used by permission): "Let It Go" written by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez; "The Lion Steeps Tonight" written by Hugo Peretti, George David Weiss, Luig Creatore and Solomon Linda; "Nao Tse Tsa" written by Jacques Loubelo;

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

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