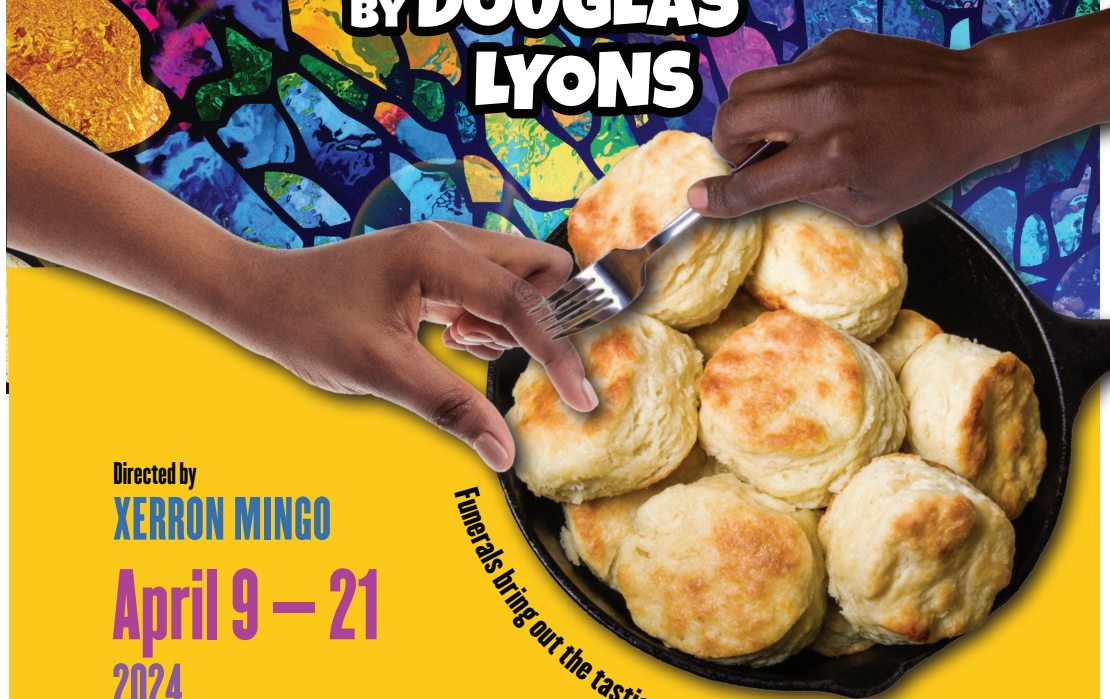


CHICKEN & BISCUITS

BY DOUGLAS
LYONS



Directed by
XERRON MINGO

April 9 – 21
2024

Funerals bring out the tastiest of secrets...

Sponsored by



NEW STAGE
Theatre

Costume Designer
Caleb Blackwell

Properties Designer
Jenna Kahley

Lighting Designer
Toni Sterling

Scenic Designer
Antonio Ferron

Technical Director / Co-Scenic Designer
Richard Lawrence

Sound Designer / Projectionist
Alberto Meza

Production Stage Manager
Mattea Pierce

Projections Designer
Rasean Davonté Johnson

Chicken & Biscuits is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

CHICKEN & BISCUITS BY DOUGLAS LYONS

Originally Produced on Broadway by

Pamela Ross Hunter Arnold E. Clayton Cornelious Leah Michalos

Kayla Greenspan

Priyanka Chopra Jonas Nick Jonas Mapleseed Productions

Curt Cronin John Joseph John Paterakis

Invisible Wall Productions/Blaine Hopkins

CHICKEN & BISCUITS received its launch production at Queens Theatre

(Taryn Sacramone, Executive Director),

Queens, NY, on February 28, 2020.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Content Warning: There will be use of strong language and strobe lighting in this production.

THE SETTING

Now. St. Luke's Church. New Haven, CT.
Bernard Jenkins's Funeral

THE CAST

Baneatta Mabry Kathy-Ann Hart*
Reginald Mabry Marvin Bell*
Beverly Jenkins Anquanizia Hall*
La'Trice FranklinShaughnessy Baker
Simone Mabry Marquita Levy
Kenny Mabry Hosea Griffith
Logan Leibowitz Phil Schneider
Brianna Jenkins Asia Benford

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Reginald Mabry: Destin Benford; For Baneatta Mabry/Brianna Jenkins: Alisa Price; For Beverly Jenkins: Ashia Benford; For Simone Mabry: Jade Krystal Dyer+; For Logan Leibowitz: Paul Pelletier+; For Kenny Mabry: Timothy Magee; For La'Trice Franklin: Twyneseia Graise

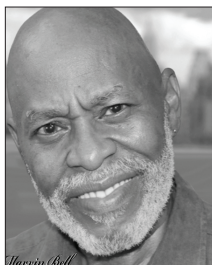
**The actor appears through the courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

+Member of the Associate Artist Company

THE CAST



SHAUGHNESSY BAKER (La'Trice Franklin) is 17 years old and in eleventh grade at Clinton High School. She is the child of Iris Baker and William Baker. She is excited to be a part of the cast of *Chicken & Biscuits*. Baker enjoys acting, dancing, reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. She has been in *Mean Girls, Jr.* and *Children of Eden, Jr.* at New Stage Theatre! Baker would like to thank her family and friends for being her biggest supporters!



Marvin Bell

MARVIN BELL* (Reginald Mabry) is making his New Stage debut in *Chicken & Biscuits*. This role was preceded by his appearance in Todd Kriedler's adaptation of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* at both the Arts Council of Coastal Carolina and Flatrock Playhouse. Bell is most proud of his appearances in four August Wilson productions – *Fences* at New Harmony Theater, *Piano Lesson* at Cape Fear Theater, *Two Trains Running* at Triad Theater, and *Radio Golf* at Gulfshore Playhouse. One of Bell's earliest performances in *Driving Miss Daisy* earned him a

Broadway World Award nomination for best-featured actor in a play. It is a role Bell has reprised several times. *Chicken & Biscuits* has been on Bell's radar since it first played on Broadway.



ASHIA BENFORD (Brianna Jenkins) is excited to be back on the stage working with a fantastic group of artists. Ashia holds a BA in Sociology and Theatre from Jackson State University. After graduating, Benford joined the professional acting internship program at New Stage Theatre, where she was seen in *Race, 9 Parts of Desire*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*, and *Hairspray*. Her directing credits include: *Once on this Island, Jr.*, *Aladdin, Jr.*, *Matilda the Musical*, and *Pipeline*, and *Sunset Baby*. Currently, she is an acting instructor/director with local

theatre companies and privately trains children and adults preparing for educational and professional auditions. Benford also has a MA in clinical mental health counseling and is a therapist at Progressive Movement Counseling. She enjoys working with children and integrates various theatre techniques into the counseling process. She has recently been seen as Ella Baker in *The Debate for Democracy*, Ms. Shears in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Angie in *Is God Is*. She would like to dedicate this performance to her personal Chicken and Biscuits! Doc, Nadia, and Yohance I love y'all and I am forever grateful.

The logo consists of two overlapping speech bubbles. The top bubble is larger and contains the words "actor" and "chat" stacked vertically in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The bottom bubble is smaller and partially overlaps the top one.

Stay and meet the cast after *Chicken & Biscuits* following the show on Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 18, after the evening performances. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



DESTIN BENFORD (Reginald Mabry U.S.) is a native of Drew, MS. He graduated from Jackson State University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication. While at Jackson State, Benford became a member of MADDRAMA Performance Troupe and immediately developed a love for the arts. During his tenure at Jackson State, he won Supreme for the NADSA Playwright competition. He was seen on stage in *Ruined*, *The Color Purple*, and *Drums of Sweetwater*. After graduation, Benford married the love of his life Ashia, whom he met in college,

had a beautiful daughter, and began a career in photography and consulting. His shows at Newstage include *All The Way*, *Pipeline*, and *Sunset Baby*. Benford is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and a mentor for Project Kings Academy. One of his favorite quotes by Dr. Mark G. Henderson says, “you won’t make much of a man unless you’re a great deal of a boy.”



JADE KRISTAL DYER (Assistant Director/Simone Mabry U.S./ Acting Associate) is a 2023 graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor of arts in theatre on a performance track. Some of her performance experience includes *Hair the Musical*, *Julius Caesar*, *Sweet Charity*, and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. When not on stage, Dyer also enjoys taking on other roles in entertainment, such as writing, producing, and directing an original Choreopoem titled *Dear, [BLANK]; Love, Anonymous* as well as acting as an associate producer and production

coordinator on an indie television series called *Tri-County*. As an actor and a person, Dyer prioritizes kindness, respect, and enjoyment for all! She is ecstatic to be a part of the New Stage team, and all of the wonderful things that are yet to come! You can find her on Instagram @jade.krystalll



TWYNESEIA GRAISE (La’Trice Franklin U.S.) is 16 years old and from Port Gibson, Miss. Graise is currently in eleventh grade. Graise is a beloved volunteer at New Stage Theatre, and she is beyond excited to take on her first understudy role. Previous performances include *The Secret Garden: Spring Version*, *Mean Girls, Jr.*, and *The Chaos Before Christmas*.



HOSEA GRIFFITH (Kenny Mabry) is a recent graduate of the University of Mobile, obtaining an M.M. in vocal performance. Griffith enjoys performing music whenever the chance arises, both in musical theater and opera. A native of Jackson, he had the pleasure of portraying many roles in Jackson and the surrounding areas, including the roles of Pablo in *Sister Act*, Joe in *Show Boat*, and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, as well as a recent turn in New Stage's *The Secret Garden: Spring Version* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. While pursuing graduate studies, Griffith was granted multiple performance opportunities, his favorites being Friar Laurent in *Roméo et Juliet* and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*.



ANQUANIZIA HALL* (Beverly Jenkins) is a native of Meridian, Miss. Hall is an award-winning director, actor, writer, and singer. She attended college in Los Angeles at AMDA where she graduated with honors and received her bachelor of fine arts in acting. You can find Hall in projects on Amazon Prime and Tubi. Her first supporting role in a film was acting alongside Grammy-winner, Cedric Burnside. Hall was seen on stage in *Dreamgirls*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Trouble in Mind*, and more. Hall's most recent endeavor was directing *The Wiz* at MCC. This is Hall's New Stage debut, and she thanks Francine and Xerron for the opportunity!



KATHY-ANN HART* (Baneatta Mabry) is making her New Stage debut with *Chicken & Biscuits*. Her favorite roles on stage include Beverly in *Chicken & Biscuits* (Uptown Players), Mrs. Muller in *Doubt* (Firehouse Center), and Francine in *Clybourne Park* (Threshold Stage) which won a Spotlight Award in New England. Hart is excited to be back with the Mabry/Jenkins clan in *Chicken & Biscuits*, this time as the indomitable Baneatta. Hart is a graduate of Harvard Law and a recovering corporate lawyer who's tickled to be back to her home in the performing arts. On film, you can see Hart in *Madame Web* as Susan (wife to O'Neil played by the funny and talented Mike Epps), currently in theaters nationwide. She dedicates this performance to her offspring, the wonderful Trae Wier. More here: <http://kathyannhart.com>



MARQUITA K. LEVY (Simone Mabry) is excited to be returning to New Stage Theatre! She is a graduate of THEE Jackson State University, where she received her BS in mass communications. Levy last appeared at New Stage as Beverly the Bellhop in *Lend Me a Soprano*. Additional New Stage credits include *Clue*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, and several Unframed Productions. Levy would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous love & support. She dedicates this performance to the loving memory of her mentor, N. Earlean Bogan.



TIMOTHY JAMES MAGEE, JR. (Kenny Mabry U.S.) is a former associate artist who is currently a junior theatre major attending Jackson State University. A Murrah High School alumnus, he also attended the Mississippi School for the Arts in Brookhaven and was a long-time student in the theatre program at Wells APAC. He was the assistant acting instructor in the 2022 and 2023 Broadway Jr. Day Camps at New Stage. He has been in mainstage productions at New Stage including *Fences*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and many more. He is a product of New Stage's Education

Department and has also performed in many productions in the Broadway Jr. Day Camps and New Stage's Youth Acting Troupe highlighted by *Aladdin, Jr.*, *Once on This Island Jr.*, and *As You Like It*. Magee would like to thank his parents, family, and friends for their love and support, and gives Jackson State his deepest gratitude for the opportunity.



PAUL PELLETIER JR (Logan Leibowitz U.S./Acting Associate) is an actor, singer, playwright, and combatant. Pelletier is also a graduate of The University of Central Florida, having graduated with a BFA in acting in 2023. Over the course of his 7+ year career in the theater, Pelletier has been a part of several fantastic productions. Ranging from spectacular musicals like *RENT*, *Little Women the Musical*, and *Into The Woods*, to classic pieces such as *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Indecent*. Pelletier is also a huge advocate for new voices and pieces in the

theater, having been both a playwright and actor for companies such as Project Spotlight and The Orlando Fringe Festival, organizations that help produce first-time playwrights and independent company's works. Paul seeks to bring laughter to those he meets, both on stage and off it, with a quick joke and chipper outlook on life. When not on the stage, Pelletier is an avid Dungeons & Dragons player, having been in games lasting over 4 years. He also enjoys drawing, video games, swimming, and cooking. Paul is incredibly grateful to be a part of the New Stage Artist Associate program, and can't wait to make new and exciting art with such amazing individuals! www.paulpelletierjr.com



ALISA PRICE (Brianna Jenkins U.S./Baneatta Mabry U.S.) is a native of Virginia and received her BA in theatre arts from High Point University. She is a former intern at New Stage Theatre where she performed in *Death of a Salesman*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Price was an understudy for New Stage Theatre's *Pipeline* and appeared in New Stage's Unframed productions of *Gloria* and *Steal Away*. Price has also worked regionally with Theatre IV and Swift Creek Mill Playhouse in Virginia. She is passionate about her church's theatre ministry at

Jackson Revival Center, where she most recently appeared in the original productions of *The Greatest Gift*, *Sister Circle*, and *Court of Atonement*. Price was the former Box Office Manager at New Stage and is thrilled to return to be a part of this show! She lives in Ridgeland with her husband, Hillary, and is the proud mother of Darryn, Gabriel, and Elijah.



PHIL SCHNEIDER* (Logan Leibowitz) is delighted to make his New Stage Theatre debut with his first professional show since graduating from Yale University this winter. Collegiate credits include Hamlet, Oedipus, Jason/Tyrone (*Hand To God*), and Martin (*The Goat*). He thanks his family and friends for their love and support. :)

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

XERRON MINGO (Director/Education Director) is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Mingo recently resided in New York City where he worked as a health & safety manager for productions on Apple TV and HGTV. He also worked as a testing secretary and production coordinator for television shows with LIONSGATE and AppleMusic Reviews. For the past ten summers, Mingo has worked at Raquette Lake Camps teaching musical theatre to students from all across the world. Most recently, Mingo played the Macy's Store Manager in *Elf, The Musical* and served as the choreographer for the production. He also directed *Mean Girls, Jr.* this past summer and last season played the role of Gabriel in *Fences* at New Stage. Mingo also played the role of Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theaters in a handful of states. Mingo continues to live in the light and could not be more blessed to do so as he continues to embark on his journey as education director at New Stage Theatre.

MATTEA PIERCE (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of her first season here at New Stage Theatre. Past New Stage credits include: *Mean Girls Jr., Lend Me a Soprano, What the Constitution Means to Me, Elf The Musical,* and *Ring of Fire* (Assistant Stage Manager).

JOSH HARRIS* (Assistant Stage Manager) is elated to join this team, having last stage managed the 2019 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Acting credits at NST include *The Sound of Music* (Captain von Trapp U.S.), *Clue* (Mr. Boddy/Police Chiefs), *Matilda* (Agatha Trunchbull), and *Madagascar* (Kowalski). Favorites elsewhere include *Next to Normal* (Dan Goodman), *Assassins* (Proprietor), *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror 3), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad Majors), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Gaston). Josh has directed *Songs for a New World* for Uproar Theatre Co., *A Very Sordid Wedding* and *Avenue Q* for FTW, and *The Music Man* for BRTC. Directing favorites elsewhere include *Miss Saigon, Joseph ..., Legally Blonde,* and *Working.*

ALBERTO MEZA (Sound Designer/Audio and Projections Engineer/Company Liaison) is a graduate of Belhaven University 19' with a BFA in Theatre. He is from Brandon, Miss. and is excited to work in the only regional theatre near his hometown. He began working with New Stage Theatre in January 2020 and has continued to work here for over the past 3 years. Some of his regional design credits for both sound and projections include: *Pipeline, Little Shop of Horrors, A Christmas Carol, I Just Stopped by to See the*

Man, A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, 9 to 5, Clue, The Sound of Music, and Every Brilliant Thing. He has also worked with Belhaven University Theatre as their professional guest artist as the sound engineer/designer for their main stage productions of **The Wizard of Oz** and **The Spitfire Grill**. Meza was also the streamer and editor behind the **Thursday Night Virtual Plays, Conversations, & Cocktails** that was presented over the virtual season at New Stage Theatre.

ANTONIO FERRON (Scenic Designer) is a set designer for theater, film, and TV based out of Los Angeles. Graduate of Carnegie Mellon's School of Drama Scenic Design Conservatory. He is currently working on his 3rd season as an Art Director for the series **Bel-Air**, streaming on Peacock. Additional television credits include **Archive 81** (Netflix), and **Disco Inferno** (Netflix). Theatre work includes **Dial M for Murder** (Asolo Rep), **Chicken & Biscuits** (Asolo Rep), **I Hate Hamlet** (Ocala Civic Theatre), **The Fantasticks** (Jean's Playhouse). He has also assisted designers for Broadway productions, National tours, and regional productions with Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Geffen Playhouse, and Second Stage Theater.

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director/Co-Scenic Designer) serves as the vice president of Fondren Theatre Workshop and has appeared in **A Christmas Memory** at New Stage, FTW's **The Rocky Horror Show**, **Buck Nekkid for Jesus**, directed FTW's **Every Christmas Story Ever Told**, and most recently appeared as Trekkie Monster in **Avenue Q**. He was also the director of the widely successful productions of **Cabaret** and **Company**, which were joint productions of FTW and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence has been seen in New Stage productions of **The Trip to Bountiful** and UnFramed's **The Eight: Reindeer Monologues**, **How I Learned to Drive**, **The Weir**, **Circle Mirror Transformation**, and **Dublin Carol**. Lawrence has won three Best Set awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences, and has also won Best Set at Southeastern Theatre Conference.

TONI STERLING (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer based in Atlanta, GA. She loves to go wherever light takes her. Some of her recent works include: **Cullad Wattah**, **Intimate Apparel**, **Red Speedo: Actor's Express**, **Play That Goes Wrong**, **Feeding Beatrice: Aurora Theatre**, **Hot Wing King (ALD):** The Alliance Theatre, **Wolf at the End of the Block**, **Tiny Beautiful Things:** Theatrical Outfit, **Paradise Blue:** The Gloucester Stage, **The Tempest**, **Othello:** Oglethorpe University, **Marie and Rosetta:** True Colors Theatre. She received her masters for lighting design from the University of Connecticut. Her favorite designs can be viewed on her website. www.tonisterling.com

RASEAN DAVONTÉ JOHNSON (Projection Designer) is delighted to be working with New Stage Theatre. A Chicago-based video artist and theatrical designer, he has had the opportunity to work regionally with institutions such as the NY Philharmonic, The Public Theatre, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, The Olney Theatre Center, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Rep, Portland Playhouse, Portland Opera, Yale Opera, Toledo Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Folks Operetta, Manual Cinema, and

internationally with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Scotland), Ningbo Song and Dance Theatre (China), and B-Floor Theatre (Thailand). He received degrees from Ohio State University and the Yale School of Drama. He currently lectures at and is the director of design for TAPS at the University of Chicago. raseandavontejohnson.com

CALEB BLACKWELL (Costume Designer) is native of Magee and is excited to return to the New Stage family! Blackwell holds a B.A. in theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi and has worked all over the South and Mid-South, including Wayside Theatre (resident designer) and Playhouse on the Square (designer for the second stage). Season 58 will mark the twelfth season he has teamed up with New Stage. Past favorite credits include *The Sound of Music*, *Hairspray*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Bright Star*. Much love to his family and friends for the love they've shown at the start of this new adventure.

DEONICA DAVIS (Assistant Costume Designer) is from Pearl, Miss., with her BFA from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a graphic designer by day and seamstress and maker by night. She recently brought her talents to New Stage, starting as a volunteer and eventually earning the title of Costume Designer for plays such as *Anne and Emmett*, *Sunset Baby*, and *Acts of Creation*. *Chicken & Biscuits* is her first mainstage production to design for working alongside Caleb Blackwell. Deonica's costume work can also be found at Pearl Community Theater; most recently their production of *Disney's Moana, Jr.*

JENNA KAHLEY (Properties Designer) is from Rockford, Ill. She has a Bachelor of Arts in theatre and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing from Belhaven University. She's previously worked for Gateway Playhouse in Bellport, NY.

BAXTER EVANS III (Assistant Sound Designer/Acting Associate) is an actor and combatant from Clinton, Miss where he went to Hinds Community College, and performed in shows called *Water Engine* and *Bus Stop*. Evans then moved to Hattiesburg, Miss to study theatre at the University of Southern Mississippi, performing in the shows *Once in a Lifetime*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Addams Family*, and *Macbeth*. While at USM, Evans received a KCATCF nomination, allowing him to travel to the KCATCF Region IV back in February 2023. He also served in Alpha Psi Omega, Harlem (a BIPOC theatre club), and Skip the Script (an improv club). Evans was recently seen in *Elf The Musical* at New Stage Theatre.

MATTHEW MCMURTRY (Lead Electrician) is a recent graduate of Belhaven University. His recent work with New Stage includes *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Clue*, and *9 to 5: The Musical*. He served as the lighting designer for New Stage's summer camp productions of *Frog and Toad*, *Kids* and *Children of Eden, Jr.* McMurtry has also served as lighting designer for Belhaven University's productions of *Steel Magnolias* and *The Burial at Thebes*.

NINA FROST (Assistant Costumer) is from Jackson and is a recent graduate of Belhaven University with a B.A. in theatre. She has constructed many costumes over the past three years, but her favorite was Dorothy's blue dress in *The Wizard of Oz* at Belhaven. Recently, she spent her summer at the New London Barn Playhouse in New London, N.H.

as a stitcher and wardrobe crew. Frost's most recent credit was costume designer for the Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre's production of *What Every Girl Should Know*. Frost is excited to be at New Stage Theatre this season!

ANTONIO JUAREZ (Assistant Technical Director) is very excited to be taking his first few steps in the world of theatre. He is a recent graduate of Hinds Community College where he studied simulation and animation. He was raised in the Brandon area and first became involved with theatre at Northwest Rankin High School where he created costumes and set design for a production of *The Zombie Prom*. He found working in the theatre environment fulfilling and when he was offered an opportunity to work with New Stage Theatre in November 2021 making the phantom cloaks and working as the sound board operator for *A Christmas Carol*, he didn't hesitate to accept the offer. Juarez most recently designed the set for the New Stage touring production of *Junie B. Jones, The Musical* and the Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre's productions of *Blues for an Alabama Sky* and *Sunset Baby*.

CREW

Lead Electrician	Matthew McMurtry
Assistant Director/Running Crew	Jade Krystal Dyer+
Assistant Stage Manager/Running Crew	Josh Harris*
Assistant Technical Director	Antonio Juarez
Assistant Sound Designer	Baxter Evans III+
Light Board Operator	Ness Koegel
Sound Board Operator/Running Crew	Vern Allen+, Morgan McKay+
Organist	Tim Moak
Costume Assistant	Nina Frost
Assistant Costume Designer	Deonica Davis
Wigmaker	Lynn Evans
Production Assistant/Running Crew	Darby Frost
Carpenters	Dave Ellis, Jimmy 'JR' Robertson
Charge Artist	Michael Montgomery
Covid Safety Manager/Company Liaison	Alberto Meza
Running Crew	Paul Pelletier+

+Member of the Associate Artist Company

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 36 years. She recently directed *The Secret Garden: Spring Version*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *I Just Stopped By to See the Man*, *The Debate for Democracy*, *Pipeline*, *Bright Star*, *Hell in High Water*, *Sweat*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Silent Sky*, and *Best of Enemies*. Favorite acting roles include Dr. Katherine Brandt in *33 Variations*, Polly in

Other Desert Cities, Lucille in *Dividing the Estate*, and Edna Earle in Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart*. She has directed a variety of shows including *All The Way*, *The Whipping Man*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Our Town*, *Red*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Hairspray*, *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Lombardi*, *Boeing, Boeing*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Gee's Bend*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Annie*, *A Soldier's Play*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Reynolds is a 2022 recipient of a Directing Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission. She served three terms on the board of directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and is on the Mississippi Theatre Association Board of Directors. Reynolds has served on grant panels for the National Endowment of the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission and has enjoyed adjudicating for Poetry Out Loud and the Southeastern Theatre Conference. She was a speaker for the 2021 Story State, www.storystate.msstate.edu, produced by Mississippi State University. Originally, from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

DAWN BUCK (Managing Director) has worked on staff at New Stage for more than 20 years. She began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time, she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Buck's other professional artistic credits include the USA International Ballet Competition, the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation – World Performance Series presenting a series of performing artists including American Ballet Theatre, Aquila Theatre of London, Joshua Bell, Alvin Ailey, Cirque Eloize, Wynton Marsalis, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She attended Belhaven University and is an alumnus of Leadership Jackson and a graduate of Dale Carnegie. Buck also completed a residency on theatre management at the Eugene O'Neill Center through a grant from the Foundation for the Extension and Development of Professional American Theatre (FEDAPT). Prior to serving on the staff of the USA International Ballet Competition, she worked with America Reads - Mississippi overseeing and training 270 AmeriCorps members who provided one-on-one tutoring in reading for students in primary K through the 3rd grade across the state. Buck also worked with Imageworks - Films for Business, assisting with the production of commercials, documentaries and training videos. She resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood with her husband David and has two sons who live in the big "N" cities of New York and Nashville.

BILL MCCARTY III (General Manager), a graduate of the University of Mississippi, has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain. The company was founded by his Grandfather Will McCarty and two Holman cousins in 1919. The families grew the business into a profitable billion dollar Mississippi-based company led by Bill McCarty Jr, his father, Henry Holman and many talented associates which sold in 1996. During his grocery career, Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider recruited Bill in 1973 to run a follow-spotlight for *The Gershwin Show* at the theatre's original Gallatin Street location. He has continued to volunteer with New Stage for more than 50 years in all areas including production, lighting and sound design, backstage, and for New Stage fundraising events. He is involved in the day-to-day management, maintenance, and production for the theatre and serves on the Board of Trustees as a lifetime member. His favorite design credits are *A Christmas Carol* (1984), *Greater Tuna* (1986), *The Gin Game* (1987), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1990).

MELISSA TILLMAN (Director of Business Services) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in technical theatre. She served as the audience services director and marketing director at New Stage, has worked as a box office associate at Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada, and assisted with many box office activities at Belhaven University. Tillman has stage managed many shows in several parts of the country, including Las Vegas and Tennessee. Her stage managing credits include *Oklahoma!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Love's Labours Lost*; and *Noye's Fludd* and *La Boheme* with the Mississippi Opera. This is Tillman's eighteenth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

JERIANNA SHAW (Marketing Director) is a graduate of Mississippi State University where she received a B.A. in communication studies. This is her second season with New Stage Theatre. She currently resides in Jackson with her partner, Gray, their daughter Poppy, and their cats Pepperoni and Salami.

LIZZY DELP (Box Office Manager) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a BFA in acting, a B.A. in English, and a minor in vocal performance. During her last few years of school, Delp served as Belhaven's special events coordinator, an administration/production intern for Opera Mississippi, and the president of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honor society for theatre students. During her time at Belhaven, Delp acted in nine productions, including *The Illusion*, *Women of Lockerbie*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. She also directed a short feminist play called *The Twelve Pound Look*. Before attending Belhaven, Delp was a pre-professional ballet dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She was the resident choreographer for the Community Learning Project, and assistant to Broadway choreographers Jennifer Paulson Lee and Brandon Powers. In the U.S., she trained at the Newtown Centre of Classical Ballet, Open World Dance Foundation, and Broadway Dance Center. Additionally, she trained for one summer at the Moscow State Academy of Choreography. Delp is very excited to be with New Stage as box office manager, and is grateful to serve the Jackson community!

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her 18th season at New Stage. She continues to enjoy traveling to schools and towns throughout the state with the Professional Apprentice Company to provide live theatre experiences for students and adults of all ages. When not on the road, you can find her in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Her professional work experiences in education and her passion for live theatre have contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Education Department. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. in educational psychology from Mississippi State University, an M.Ed. from Delta State University, and recently won the 2019 Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

CARLA MARSH (House Manager) received her B.A. in criminal justice with an emphasis in juvenile justice from Jackson State University. She is pleased to be returning to New Stage for her twentieth season. Marsh is employed full-time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.

STAY TUNED FOR...



JUNE 5, 2024.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of New Stage Theatre wishes to thank the following individuals and companies for the generous donation of time and resources to this production and the 58th season.

Dress Code Warehouse
Hannah Fields
Silly Billy's Vintage Clothes

Mahri McLean
The Manship Wood Fired
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Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

During performances, will remain open until 7:00 AND box office hours on Saturdays to be open until 7:00

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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TELEPHONE/WEBSITE

Main Number: (601) 948-3533

Box Office: ext. 222

Artistic Director: ext. 224

Managing Director: ext. 246

Marketing Director: ext. 225

Education Director: ext. 232

Website: www.newstagetheatre.com

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New Stage Theatre is a Constituent of Theatre Communication Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.