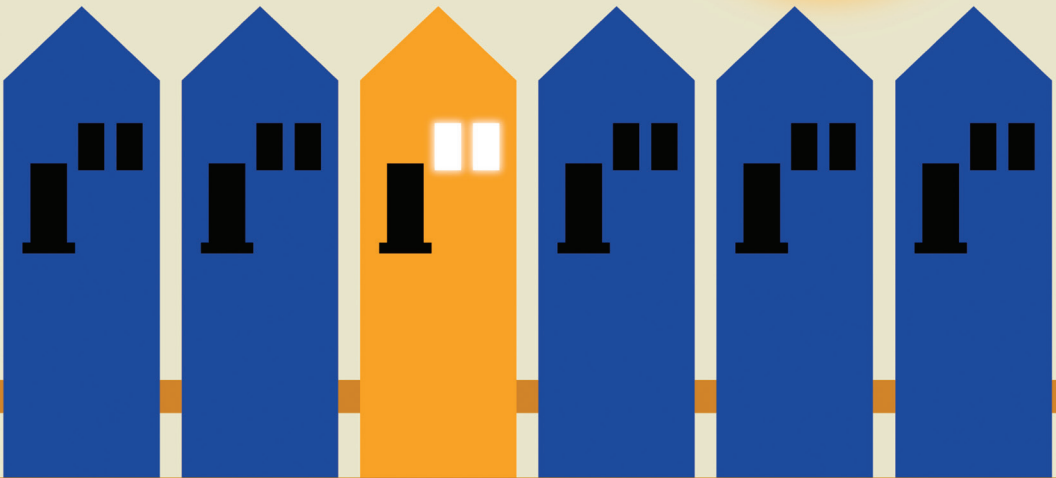


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presents

# raisin

Book by **ROBERT NEMIROFF** and **CHARLOTTE ZALTZBERG**  
Music by **JUDD WOLDIN** & Lyrics by **ROBERT BRITTAN**  
Based on **LORRAINE HANSBERRY's *A Raisin in the Sun***



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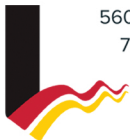


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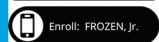
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# CREATIVE STATEMENTS

A Personal Statement from Director & Choreographer, Christopher Page-Sanders



Dear Patron of the Arts,

We are celebrating 65 years of Lorraine Hansberry's American Classic *A Raisin in the Sun*, which opened on Broadway in 1960, and 50 years of *Raisin*, the Broadway musical adaptation that took the world by storm during the 1973-1974 Broadway season. Both *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Raisin* have won numerous awards and accolades, including Tony Awards for Best Play in 1960 and Best Musical in 1974. In 2004, I was privileged to perform in the St. Louis regional premiere of *Raisin* with the St. Louis Black Repertory Company. That experience with this material was a life-defining moment, and it catapulted me into

becoming the artist I am today. Over the years, both the play and the musical have served as a springboard to help launch and guide the careers of many artists: Lorraine Hansberry, Sidney Portier, Ruby Dee, Claudia McNeil, Ralph Carter, Debbie Allen, Virginia Capers, Joe Morton, Helen Martin, Donald McKayle and MORE! You cannot deny the effect that *A Raisin in the Sun* has had on us; many of us remember reading it in English class, watching one of the film adaptations, or witnessing it, live, in the theater. If this is your first time seeing this American Story or your one-hundredth time, I welcome you. As the world is dealing with so much grief and we are trying to find safe places to mourn and healthy ways to cope, may I offer this story and this time in the theater as a safe space for you to mourn, to grieve, and to find hope. We call out the names of those who have become ancestors and say 'thank you.' I also ask everyone to remember their dreams. Remember all that has been bought and paid for in order for you to become who you are. Remember who you are!

Peace & Blessings; Love, Light and Art!

*Christopher Page-Sanders*

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Littleton's historic  
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presents the Colorado Premiere of

# raisin

Based on  
**LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S**  
"A Raisin in the Sun"

Book by **ROBERT NEMIROFF & CHARLOTTE ZALTZBERG** Music by **JUDD WOLDIN** Lyrics by **ROBERT BRITTAN**

## ONSTAGE ARTISTS

*(Alphabetical order by artists' first names)*

ARABELLA BEAUBRUN	ASHA ROMEO	BERNIE CARDELL	BLAKE CHANNING TAYLOR
CHLOÉ-GRANT ABEL	DAEVON ROBINSON	DAJA McLEOD	eden origin
EMMANUEL HAMILTON	HEIDI CARANN SNIDER	ISAAC ROSEN*	JAHALIA COLEMAN
JOHN e. ROBERTS	JOZEPH MYKAELS	KIARA MONET	MARTEZ MCKINZY
MARY LOUISE LEE*	MICAH J. LAWRENCE	NICOLE SIEGLER	PIERRE ANDRÉ McNAIR
ZEAH LOREN			

## OFFSTAGE ARTISTS

Director & Choreographer <b>CHRISTOPHER PAGE-SANDERS</b>	Music Director <b>TRENT HINES</b>	Assistant Director <b>ILIANA LUCERO BARRON</b>	
Music Tracks Creator <b>DONNA DEBRECENI</b>	Stage Manager <b>JANE STEWART</b>	Assistant Stage Manager <b>LYDIA THOMPSON</b>	Dance Captain <b>JOHN e. ROBERTS</b>
Scenic Designer & Technical Director <b>MIKE HAAS</b>	Costume Designer <b>HANNAH TRIPP</b>	Wig Designer <b>JOCELEN SMITH</b>	
Lighting Designer <b>VANCE McKENZIE</b>	Sound Designer <b>CURT BEHM</b>	Dialect Coach <b>NNAMDI K. NWANKWO</b>	Props Designer <b>LINDSAY SULLIVAN</b>
Production Carpenter <b>KEVIN CHUNG</b>	Scenic Artists <b>DUSTIN HARTLEY &amp; ELICIA JAMES</b>	Sound Board Operator <b>ALEX PALMER</b>	
Production Electricians <b>CADE BECK, MONICA BOWKER &amp; EMILY MADDOX</b>	Spotlight Operators <b>CHANDLER HINCKLEY &amp; REECE PIERCE</b>		
Electricians <b>RACHEL FIELDS, ZACH GONSOULIN &amp; OLIVER STONE</b>	Run Crew <b>MIKAYLA LaMANTIA</b>		



\* Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the U.S. labor union representing more than 51,000 professional American Actors and Stage Managers in the theater. Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

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RAISIN began a pre-Broadway tryout on May 30, 1973 at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. and premiered on Broadway at the 46th Street Theatre on October 18, 1973 before transferring to the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on January 13, 1975. Donald McKayle was the director & choreographer. The Colorado Premiere of RAISIN is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [ConcordTheatricals.com](http://ConcordTheatricals.com)

# Meet the Cast

*artists' photos in alphabetical order, by artists' first names*



ARABELLA BEAUBRUN  
she, her, hers



ASHA ROMEO  
she, her, hers



BERNIE CARDELL  
he, him, his



BLAKE CHANNING  
TAYLOR  
he, him, his, they, them, theirs



CHLOÉ-GRANT ABEL  
she, her, hers



DAEVON ROBINSON  
he, him



DAJA MCLEOD  
she, her, hers



eden origin  
she, her, hers, he, him, his



EMMANUEL HAMILTON  
he, him, his



HEIDI CARANN SNIDER  
she, her, hers



JAHALIA COLEMAN  
she, her, hers



ISAAC ROSEN  
he, him, his



JOHN e. ROBERTS  
pronoun inclusive



JOZEPH MYKAELS  
he, him, his



KIARA MONET  
she, her, hers



MARTEZ MCKINZY  
he, him, his



MARY LOUISE LEE  
she, her, hers



MICAH J. LAWRENCE  
they, them, theirs



NICOLE SIEGLER  
she, her, hers



PIERRE ANDRÉ MCNAIR  
he, him, his



ZEAH LOREN  
she, her, hers



# THE CAST

*(in alphabetical order by artists' first names)*

ARABELLA BEAUBRUN	Swing
ASHA ROMEO	Ruth Younger
BERNIE CARDELL	Karl Lindner
BLAKE CHANNING TAYLOR	Travis Younger at certain performances
CHLOÉ-GRANT ABEL	Southsider / Ensemble
DAEVON ROBINSON	Big Walter / Bobo / Ensemble
DAJA McLEOD	Mrs. Johnson / Ensemble
eden origin	Southsider / Shango / Ensemble
EMMANUEL HAMILTON	Travis Younger at certain performances
HEIDI CARANN SNIDER	Beneatha Younger
ISAAC ROSEN*	Joseph Asagai
JAHALIA COLEMAN	Southsider / Ensemble
JOHN e. ROBERTS	Southsider / Ensemble
JOZEPH MYKAELS	Willie / Pastor / Ensemble
KIARA MONET	Althea / Ensemble
MARTEZ MCKINZY	Southsider / Ensemble
MARY LOUISE LEE*	Lena "Mama" Younger
MICAH J. LAWRENCE	Walter Lee Younger
NICOLE SIEGLER	Swing
PIERRE ANDRÉ McNAIR	Swing
ZEAH LOREN	Southsider / Ensemble

## UNDERSTUDIES

*(Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.)*

For Ruth Younger: DAJA McLEOD; for Walter Lee Younger: DAEVON ROBINSON; for Lena "Mama" Younger: ARABELLA BEAUBRUN; for Beneatha Younger and Mrs. Johnson: KIARA MONET; for Joseph Asagai: DAEVON ROBINSON

## SWINGS

*(Swings never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.)*

ARABELLA BEAUBRUN, NICOLE SIEGLER and PIERRE ANDRÉ McNAIR

## DANCE CAPTAIN

JOHN e. ROBERTS



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## ACT I MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prologue .....	Company
Man Say .....	Walter Lee
Whose Little Angry Men .....	Ruth
Runnin' to Meet the Man .....	Walter Lee and Company
A Whole Lotta Sunlight .....	Mama
Booze .....	Althea, Bobo, Walter Lee, Willie and Company
Alaiyo .....	Asagai and Beneatha
African Sequence .....	Beneatha, Walter Lee, Shango and Company
Sweet Time .....	Ruth and Walter Lee
You Done Right .....	Walter Lee

## ~ FIFTEEN-MINUTE-INTERMISSION ~

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your intermission cocktails and snacks.*

## ACT II MUSICAL NUMBERS

He Come Down This Morning .....	Pastor, Mama, Mrs. Johnson, Ruth, Travis and Company
It's a Deal .....	Walter Lee
Sweet time (Reprise) .....	Ruth and Walter Lee
Sidewalk Tree .....	Travis
Not Anymore .....	Walter Lee, Ruth and Beneatha
Alaiyo (Reprise) .....	Asagai and Beneatha
It's a Deal (Reprise) .....	Walter Lee
Measure of the Valleys .....	Mama

## FEATURED RECORDINGS

Dream Deferred (Harlem) .....	Recited by Langston Hughes
Move On Up A Little Higher .....	Artist: Mahalia Jackson Album: The Best Of Mahalia Jackson
Black Coffee .....	Artist: Sarah Vaughan   Album: After Hours
Che-Que-Re-Que-Che-Que ...	Artist: Mongo Santamaria   Album: Afro-Roots
Shango .....	Artist: Babatunde Olatunji   Album: Drums Of Passion



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your drinks and concessions waiting for you in the Stanton Art Gallery.*



# WHO'S WHO

*(Cast, Crew, Creatives listed in alphabetical order by artists' first names.)*

## **Alexander Palmer | Sound Board Operator**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Alexander Palmer has been working in the Denver-Metro area theater scene for the last decade. Last year alone he worked on more than 20 shows across Colorado. Apart from theater, Alex works as an Audio Engineer at CCM Recording Studios recording, mixing, and mastering for clients big and small. He also teaches Post Production at the Colorado Film School. In any capacity, Alexander feels at home working with creatives to achieve their vision.

## **Arabella Beaubrun | Actor (Lena "Mama" Younger u/s)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Arabella Beaubrun is originally from New York. She attended the Eubie Blake Theatre Company in New York to further her acting skills. She sang backup for Shirley Caesar in the McDonald's Gospel Choir in New York. Arabella performed in ten showcases at the AMTC (Actor, Models, Talent for Christ) Summer Shine. For the past eight years, she has been building her theater career in Colorado with several notable performances. Arabella has played Sylvia in *All Shook Up* at Town Hall Art Center, and has had her own show called *The Sounds of Arabella* at the Vintage Theater. She also played Shelly's understudy in *Dot* at Vintage Theater and Asaka in *Once on this Island* at Town Hall Art Center. She played Bloody Mary in *South Pacific* and Dynamite in *Hairspray* at the Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center. (PACE Center) Arabella has also performed as a singer in the Center Stage Series at the Clocktower Cabaret.

## **Asha Romeo | Actor (Ruth Younger)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Asha Romeo is incredibly grateful to be able to close out her time in Colorado with the honor of playing Ruth in the regional premiere of *Raisin the Musical!* With the exceptional leadership of this show, along with the talented and genuine cast, she has and will continue to learn and grow exponentially from this experience. Other favorite roles include: Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* (Center Stage Theater Co.) and The Witch in *Into the Woods* (CU Boulder Theater & Dance Program). Asha will be moving to Los Angeles in the summer of 2024 to continue pursuing a musical theater career. She'll be leaving having completed a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance, as well as a Bachelor's in Music Education, from CU Boulder (Dec. 2022).

## **Bernie Cardell | Actor (Karl Lindner)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Bernie is a local actor and director and has been working in the Denver area theater scene for the last twenty years. He is thrilled to return to Town Hall Arts Center where he was last seen in 2012 (!) as Max Bialystock in *The Producers*. Bernie also serves as the Artistic Director for Vintage Theatre in Aurora where he recently directed *The Glass Menagerie* (his 150th theatrical production!). Other favorite acting credits around town include Man in Chair (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), Charlie (*The Foreigner*), Julian Marx (Bullets Over Broadway) and McNair (*1776*). "Thank you to Christopher for this wonderful opportunity, and to Mathew and Robert Michael for creating a great playground."

## **Blake Channing Taylor | Actor (Travis Younger at certain performances)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his, they, them, theirs*

Blake Channing Taylor is excited to be back at Town Hall Arts Center after a recent run as Eric in Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*. Other credits include Chip in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Arvada Center); Young Simon/Lola in *Kinky Boots* (Arvada Center); Carlos in Disney's *Descendants*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and Disney's *Freaky Friday the Musical* (Neighborhood Music and Theatre); Olaf in Disney's *Frozen, Jr.*, Disney's *The Lion King*, and *Willy Wonka* (Performing Arts Academy).

**Commercial Credits:** Burger King, Deloitte, Junior Achievement, UC Health, Clarios, and Fitness Together. **Training:** acting (Denver Center for the Performing Arts), dance (Cleo Parker Robinson Dance/Cherry Creek Dance), and gymnastics (Dardano's). Blake is a 5th grader in Denver Public Schools and a Master's Program Graduate of Children's Music Academy. Special shout out to Blake's Chicago birth family. [www.blake-taylor.com](http://www.blake-taylor.com)

## **Chloé-Grant Abel | Actor (Southsider/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Chloé-Grant Abel, a native of Kansas City, honed her dance knowledge through twelve years of intensive training at the Kansas City Ballet School under a full scholarship. Her journey continued with studies at the Ailey School in New York as a Fellowship recipient. She later graduated with a BFA in Dance, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. Chloé's professional career includes performances with Quixotic Performance Fusion, the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, the Owen/Cox Dance Group, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance

Company, an apprenticeship with the Kansas City Ballet and most recently, 12 years as an Ensemble Member with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble (CPRDE) as well as the Ensemble Rehearsal Director from 2017-2023. During her 12-year tenure with CPRDE, Ms. Abel graced the stage in lead roles by Donald McKayle and Cleo Parker Robinson, as well as various works by acclaimed choreographers including Rennie Harris, Eleo Pomare, Gary Abbott, Garfield Lemonius, Millicent Johnnie, Robert Moses, Milton Myers, and Christopher Huggins. Chloé is currently working as a freelance artist in the Denver.

### **Christopher Page-Sanders Director & Choreographer**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Christopher is thrilled to return to Town Hall Arts Center after previously choreographing *Ain't Misbehavin*, *Sister Act the Musical*, and *Once on This Island*. Originally from St. Louis, MO, Christopher is the Founding CO-Artistic Director of NU-World Danse Theatre. As a performer, he has danced extensively with international dance companies such as the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Dianne McIntyre Group, and the Owen/Cox Dance Group, performing the works of legendary choreographers such as Alvin Ailey, Rennie Harris, Cleo Parker Robinson, Katherine Dunham, Donald McKayle, Dianne McIntyre, Milton Myers, Ray Mercer and more. He has also performed within the theater space in musicals such as *Dreamgirls* and *Raisin* (The St. Louis Black Repertory Company), *The Wiz* (The Fulton Theater), and *The Frogs* (Mastervoices). Now primarily working as a Director, Choreographer, Educator, and Creative Director, Christopher has worked with theater companies and arts institutions such as COCA Presents, Denver School for the Arts, Lone Tree Arts Center, Metro Theatre Company, Rosie's Theater Kids, Town Hall Arts Center, and Vintage Theatre. He is the Associate Choreographer for the Off-Broadway hit *Triple Threat*, created and performed by James T. Lane and directed/choreographed by Kenny Ingram. Christopher is a 2020 Colorado Henry Award winner for his choreography in *The Scottsboro Boys* (Vintage Theatre), as well as a winner of the Leni Wylliams Award for Choreography and Innovation; a Marlowe Award; an Onstage Colorado Theatre Award; and a True West Award.

*"On the shoulders of my ancestors and mentors, I Dance!"*

### **Curt Behm | Sound Designer**

*Pronouns: he, him his*

Curt is very grateful to be back sound designing again this season for Town Hall Arts

Center. He is a three-time Henry Award nominee, a 2019 True West award winner and has been mixing and/or designing theatrical productions and mixing bands for 30+ years. Favorites include: *Green Day's American Idiot the Musical*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Dracula*, *Violet*, *Young Frankenstein the Musical*, *Sweeney Todd*, ALW's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and mixing Blues artist Susan Tedeschi. Curt would like to thank the leaders at Town Hall Arts Center for the continued opportunities, and his family for their love and never-ending support.

### **Daevon Robinson | Actor (Big Walter/Bobo/Southsider/Ensemble; Walter Lee u/s)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Daevon Robinson is a Colorado native and recent graduate of the University of Northern Colorado's Musical Theater program. He was most recently seen in Shakespeare in the Wild's production of *As you Like It*, and Vintage Theatre's production of *In the Heights*. He was also an understudy for the BETC production of *Coal Country*. Daevon is really excited to be a part of this amazing production of *Raisin* and is honored to be under the direction of a talented and hard-working production crew! Daevon wants to give personal thanks to Christopher and Iliana for helping guide and push him to his full potential during the process.

### **Daja McLeod | Actor (Mrs. Johnson/Ensemble; Ruth u/s)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Daja is elated to be back at Town Hall Arts Center after previously performing in *Memphis*. She'd like to thank the entire cast and crew for the opportunity to tell this beautiful story of the African-American dream. Huge thanks to her entire support system! For more: [DajaMcLeod.com](http://DajaMcLeod.com)

### **Donna Kolpan Debreceni Music Tracks Creator**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Donna Kolpan Debreceni has tracked numerous musicals for Town Hall Arts Center, Breckenridge Backstage, PHAMALy, Vintage, and Pagosa Springs. Some Town Hall Arts Center favorites (to name just a few) include *Kiss Me, Kate*; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; *Guys and Dolls* (for which she earned a Henry Award nomination!); *The Producers the Musical*; *Young Frankenstein the Musical*; *Gypsy*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Shrek the Musical*; *The Music Man*; *Once on This Island*; and most recently Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*.

*"Thanks for listening, and enjoy Raisin!"*



**eden origin | Actor**  
**(Southsider/Shango/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers, he, him, his*  
eden origin is a Henry Award and Broadway World Denver Award nominee for her performances as the Emcee in *Cabaret* and Benny in *In the Heights*, both at Vintage Theatre. She was also nominated for her performance as Millie in the Colorado Premiere of *Toni Stone* at the Aurora Fox! eden shares her gratitude for her family and ancestors, and is incredibly excited to bring you the well-loved and revered story of *Raisin!* You can see him next as P in *The Road to Lethé* at Benchmark Theatre.  
"Asé!" Instagram: @afro\_eden

**Emmanuel Hamilton | Actor**  
**(Travis Younger at certain performances)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*  
Emmanuel is a Denver native and is thrilled to be making his *Raisin* debut with this wonderful cast. He is a 5th grader who loves to read, draw, and sing. Emmanuel is so thankful to have the love and support of his family and friends.

**Hannah Tripp | Costume Designer**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*  
Hannah is a stage manager, sewist, and general theater artist. She is delighted to create her first costume design for the Colorado premiere of *Raisin* at Town Hall Arts Center, where her previous productions include Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*, *Master Class*, *Putting it Together*, and *Seussical, Kids*. Other local credits include *The Children* with Butterfly Effect Theater, and *Bite & Other Bits* with In the Wings Aerial. She is a graduate of Metropolitan State University of Denver with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater.

**Heidi Carann Snider | Actor**  
**(Beneatha Younger)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*  
Heidi Carann Snider is thrilled to be returning to Town Hall Arts Center! She was last here in the Spring of 2022 as Papa Ge in *Once on This Island*. You may have seen her over the holidays in Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company's world premiere of *Holly, Alaska!* Her previous stage credits also include Michelle Morris in *Dreamgirls* (Lone Tree Arts Center); Ella in *Cinderella* and Yvette in *Clue: On Stage* (Creede Repertory Theatre); The Danseuse in *Sophisticated Ladies* (Vintage Theatre Productions); Lili in the regional premiere of *Small Ball* (The Catamounts at Buntport). Heidi is excited for future projects and looks forward to working with like-minded individuals who share her passion for storytelling. Follow on Instagram at @heidicarann for upcoming projects!

**Iliana Lucero Barron | Assistant Director**

*Pronouns: she, ella, her*  
Iliana Lucero Barron is a bilingual, latine performer, director, teaching artist, creative and advocate based in Denver, Colorado. Graduating from the University of Colorado at Denver in 2016, Iliana became a first-generation college graduate. Since then, she has worked in multiple capacities throughout the Colorado theater community. You may have seen some of her work as a performer: *Northside* (Su Teatro), *ALMA* (Curious Theatre Company), *The Shakespeare in the Parking Lot Tour* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts), *Taming of the Shrew* (Theatreworks), *You Enjoy Myself* (Local Theater). You may have also seen her work as a director: *The Sojourners Project: Busing* (IDEA Stages & Control Group Productions), *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Central City Opera), *DOT* (Vintage Theatre). "Enjoy the show!"

**Isaac Rosen | Actor (Asagai)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*  
Isaac is so excited to be returning to Town Hall Arts Center. He is a locally based actor who has been active in the Denver scene for the past five years, and a recent new member of Actors Equity. Most recently he has been seen as The Hustler in *Sophisticated Ladies* (Vintage Theatre), Jason No. 2 in *The Inheritance* (Vintage Theatre), and Ted in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Cherry Creek Theatre). Favorite roles include Professor Plum in *Clue* (Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center) and Armand/Storyteller in *Once on This Island* (Town Hall Arts Center). Isaac is so excited to be sharing all the hard work of this production with all of you!

**Jahalia Coleman | Actor**  
**(Southsider/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*  
Jahalia is a professional performer from just outside of Boulder, Colorado. A proud Afro-Latina, she is overjoyed to be making a return to the Town Hall Arts Center stage for her fourth show, and to be sharing this experience with such an incredible cast and crew. Having grown up a performer and model since 1999 and continuing her professional theater journey at Metropolitan State University of Denver, Jahalia has a deep passion and appreciation for the arts, but an even deeper passion for bringing people together through the art of theater. She is eager to welcome audiences to share in the experience that is theater at Town Hall Arts Center.

**Jane Stewart | Production Stage Manager**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*  
Jane is happy to add another Town Hall Arts Center production to her ever-growing list of favorite shows! In addition to Stage Managing

the last three summers of Town Hall Art Center's teen theater intensive, past Town Hall Assistant Stage Manager and SM credits include: *The Last Session; Urinetown; All Shook Up; La Cage a Faux; I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!; In the Trenches; Disney's Newsies the Musical; The Wedding Singer; Little Shop of Horrors; and The Fantasticks.* (Whew!) *"As always, thank you to RMS, Matthew Kepler, and Mike Hass for continuing to laugh at my jokes and keep hiring me for some reason. Finally, I would like to thank my family and my cat (in no particular order) for their love and support."*

**Jocelen Barnett Smith | Wig, Hair, & Makeup Designer**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Jocelen is a Denver-based designer whose credits include *Natasha, Pierre...* (Arvada Center), *Dreamgirls* (Lone Tree Arts Center), *Steel Magnolias* (Theatreworks CS), and *In the Heights* (The Fine Arts Center). She is a graduate of Indiana University Southeast. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support. Instagram: @wigheadswillroll

**John e. Roberts | Actor (Southsider/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: Inclusive*

John has been dancing since he was six years old. He loves the dancing styles of Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Musical Theater, Tap, and many others. He trained at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) in St. Louis, Missouri for more than eleven years. During his training, John worked with profound professionals of the dance world. Some of these professionals include but are not limited to: Antonio Douthit -Boyd, Alicia Graf-Mack, and Kirven Douthit-Boyd, all from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre; Christopher Page-Sanders from the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble and Co- Artistic Director of Nu-World Contemporary Dance Theatre; Rolando Yaines, Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Ballet; Jessica Taylor, Founder and Director of DAMAGED Dance Company, River North Dance Chicago; Alonzo King, Artistic Director of the LINES Ballet Company; Gary Abbott Co- Artistic Director and Founder of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, DanceWORKS Chicago; and many more. John has also been a part of two pre-professional companies within his training. These companies were Ballet Eclectica, a contemporary and classical ballet company and COCA Dance, a Contemporary, Jazz, and Modern company. John has also participated in Musical Theater shows at COCA through the FOX Charitable Foundation. Some of these shows include *Legally Blonde the Musical, Aida the Musical, In the Heights, Sussical the Musical, Ragtime*, and many others. He has also done some commercial work that has been broadcast to more than 1 million people.

John recently completed his term as a First Company Ensemble Member and finished six seasons with the world renowned Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble based in Denver, CO. Continuing his passion, John is now teaching dance while also freelancing when possible.

**Joseph Mykaels | Actor (Willie/Pastor/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Joseph is a native Coloradan by way of Denver. He was educated in the public school system of Denver, and his love for the arts began to flourish when he became a member of Denver East High School's Speech and Debate team. After graduating from East High in 2015, Joseph attended William Carey University, where he continued his theater education. In 2021, he was in Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado's production of *JQA*. In addition to his love for the arts, Joseph has always made room in his life, and time in his schedule to give back to his community. By participating in many organizations, he has been able to lend his talents of public speaking and singing to various events across the Midwest. Joseph is excited to be returning to Town Hall Arts Center since portraying Delray in last season's production of *Memphis*.

**Kiara Monet | Actor (Althea/Ensemble; Beneatha & Mrs. Johnson u/s)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Kiara Monet comes to the Town Hall Arts Center having most recently performed in the Lone Tree Arts Center's production of *Dreamgirls* and Netflix's *The Queen's Ball: The Bridgerton Experience*. Other credits include: Akeelah in *Akeelah and the Bee*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue* (Little Theater of the Rockies) and Ensemble in *All Shook Up* (Little Theater of the Rockies). Training: B.A. University of Northern Colorado. *"Thanks to my family for the constant support. Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is we are powerful beyond measure."* Instagram: @kiaramonet\_j

**Lindsay Sullivan | Props Designer**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Lindsay has acted as a Prop Designer starting with *Meet Me in St. Louis* and tackling many shows after that! She has two boys Easton (13) and Asher (8) who perform plenty of drama, comedy and musicals on a daily basis. *"Thank you to my sweet husband who has been so supportive of my venture back into creative mode."*

**Lydia Thompson | Assistant Stage Manager**

*Pronouns: they, them, theirs*

Lydia is very excited to be on the tech side of working for Town Hall Arts Center! They graduated from the University of Puget Sound



with a BA in Art History. Lydia has previously performed at Town Hall Arts Center in *La Cage Aux Folles* (Mercedes) and Disney's *Newsies the Musical* (Race). They are very grateful to their family, friends, partner, and little brown cat, Pumpernickel, for all their love and support.

### **Martez McKinzy | Actor (Southside/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Originally from Kansas City, Mo., Mr. McKinzy studied with Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey under the direction of Tyrone Aiken. He is formerly a company member of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. He has worked with companies such as Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Nu-World Contemporary Dance Theatre, Trisitan Griffin Dance CO, Colorado Ballet, Boulder Ballet, and Briah Dance. Some career highlights include premiering Cleo Parker Robinsons "Lark Ascending" as the lead male in collaboration with the Colorado Symphony, and performing in works by Donald McKayle such as "Uprooted," "Rubicon," and "Songs of the Disinherited."

### **Mary Louise Lee | Actor**

**(Lena "Mama" Younger)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Mary Louise is excited to return to Town Hall Arts Center after her performance as Nell in *Ain't Misbehavin'!* One of the few natives of Denver, Mary Louise has toured Korea, Japan, Johnston Island, Honduras, and Panama singing for the troops of the US Department of Defense. She is a band leader, vocal coach, mentor, director, and was a featured contestant on Season 9 of *America's Got Talent*™. Some favorite theatrical roles include Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* at Theatreworks; The Chanteuse in *Sophisticated Ladies* (OnStage Colorado Award - Actor in a Musical), Mama Rose in *Gypsy* (True West Award), and Velma in *Crowns* at Vintage Theatre; Marion Anderson in the World Premiere of *Secrets of the Universe and other songs*, and Caroline in *Caroline, Or Change* (Henry Award - Outstanding Actress in a Musical, and True West Award) at the Aurora Fox Arts Center; and Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Westword - Best Actress in a Musical) which played multiple venues - Vintage Theatre, the Denver Center for Performing Arts, and Shadow Theatre. For more: [MaryLouiseLee.com](http://MaryLouiseLee.com).

### **Micah "Blue" J. Lawrence | Actor**

**(Walter Lee Younger)**

*Pronouns: they, them, theirs*

Originally from Arizona, Micah "Blue" J. Lawrence graduated from UNC in 2023 with a B.F.A in Acting. Notable credits include Wayne/ Ensemble/CC u/s in *Dreamgirls* (Lone Tree Arts Center, CO); *Big Top 2* (Lagoon Amusement Park, UT); *Motones & Jerseys* (National Tour); Nomax in *Five Guys Named Moe* (Vintage Theatre); Benjamin "Benny" Coffin, III in

*Rent* (University of Northern Colorado); and Doc O'Connor in *The Laramie Project* (University of Northern Colorado). Micah would like to thank their family, friends, and the company of Raisin for all the love and support.

Instagram: @blue\_likethecolorr | @latalentofficial

### **Mikayla LaMantia | Run Crew**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Mikayla is thrilled to return to Town Hall Arts Center, where her previous shows include Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*, *SHOUT! The Mod Musical*, and *...Good Man Charlie Brown*.

*"Thank you to my friends for always supporting my passions, and thank you to Town Hall for creating these remarkable moments. To the audience, thank you for trusting us to take you on our journey."*

### **Mike Haas | Scenic Designer & Technical Director**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Mike Haas is the Technical Director at Littleton's Town Hall Arts Center. With a career spanning almost three decades in the theater industry, and last 10 as TD for Town Hall, Mike has honed his expertise in all aspects of technical production, making him an indispensable asset to the Town Hall Arts Center. Mike's expertise ranges from set design and construction to lighting, sound, special effects coordination, props, rigging, parade float construction, and once in a blue moon, you might see him on the stage. As the Technical Director at Town Hall Arts Center, Mike plays a pivotal role in collaborating with directors, designers, and production teams to bring the artistic vision to life on stage. He takes pride in fostering a collaborative and supportive work environment that encourages the growth and creativity of everyone involved in the production process. When he's not immersed in the world of theater, Mike enjoys the Colorado wilderness and traveling with his wife, Lisa. Mike's passion, dedication, and commitment to excellence continue to elevate the standard of theater productions at Town Hall Arts Center. Yes, AI wrote this bio.

### **Nicole Siegler | Actor (Swing)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

This is Nicole's fourth show at Town Hall Arts Center and she's so excited to be working with such an amazing cast and crew. Other performing credits include: *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel); *The Imaginary Invalid* (Toinette); *#Enough*, a play she wrote and acted in that focused on police brutality; *Once on This Island* (Erzulie); *FairView*, a staged reading (Keisha); *All Shook Up* (Lorraine); *Memphis* (Ensemble); and a Morning Glow Soloist at the Arts for Autism fundraiser at the Gerstwhin Theatre in NYC. Nicole would like to thank her friends and family for helping her become the young woman she is today. She



gives all credit and recognition to God, Who has undoubtedly carried her the whole way. She hopes you enjoy the show, and that audiences can grow alongside the characters, just as she has grown in this process!

### **Nnamdi K. Nwankwo | Dialect Coach**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Nnamdi K. Nwankwo is thrilled to be returning to Town Hall Arts Center. Recent credits include a reading of Chicago playwright, Christian Alexander's *Vulnerable; Into the Woods* at Paramount Theatre; *Man in Orange* in the world premiere of *For Colored Boyz* at Fulton Theatre; Agwé in *Once on This Island* at Town Hall Arts Center; Merrick in the world premiere of *Elephant* at Benchmark Theatre; and a workshop of the new opera, *Intelligence*, by American Composer/Librettist duo, Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer. For more, follow him at @nnamdiknwankwo on Instagram, X, and Tiktok.

### **Pierre André McNair | Swing**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Pierre André McNair is grateful for this opportunity to be joining the cast of *Raisin*. He was last seen as a Moor Dancer and Muleteer in the ensemble of Platte Valley Players' (PVP) *Man of La Mancha*. He was exposed to a variety of genres of performing with the global educational organization "Up With People," telling creative stories on stages around the world. Some of his favorite show credits are *Hairspray* (Performance Now Theatre - PNTC), *Ragtime* (PNTC), *Carousel* (PNTC), *The Wedding Singer* (PNTC), *Disaster!* (PVP), and *Dreamgirls* (ignite Theatre). Pierre would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Christopher Page-Sanders and the whole creative team. Much love to Candice for holding it down while he pursues his passion; to his friends and family for all their love and support; and to God who makes all things possible. He would also like to thank YOU for being here and supporting live theater.

### **Reece Pierce | Spotlight Operator**

Reece is happy to be back at Town Hall Arts Center and running a spotlight for the Colorado premiere of *Raisin!* Prior work with Town Hall Arts Center includes *Xanadu the Musical*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *All Shook Up*, and *Urinetown*.

### **Trent Hines | Music Director**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Trent is a Henry-Nominated Music Director. Some of his favorite productions include: Musical Director/Keyboard/Conductor for *Dreamgirls* at Lone Tree Arts Center; Musical Director/Pianist/Conductor for *Into the*

*Woods* at The Arvada Center; Pianist/Conductor/Actor for *The Wild Party* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts; Musical Director/Pianist/Conductor for *Something Rotten* at the University of Northern Colorado; Musical Director/Pianist/Conductor for *Memphis* at Town Hall Arts Center; Musical Director/Pianist/Conductor for *Blues in the Night* at the Aurora Fox.

### **Vance McKenzie | Lighting Designer**

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

Vance McKenzie is a freelance lighting designer and resident lighting designer at Miners Alley Playhouse. Recent designs include *Misery* (Miners Alley); Disney's *Newsies the Musical* (Performance Now Theatre Company); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Candlelight Dinner Playhouse); *Tick, Tick, Boom!* (Little Theatre of the Rockies); and *Franklinland* (Curious Theatre). Other designs include: *Indecent* (UCCS); *The Foreigner*, *White Christmas*, and *She Loves Me* (Arvada Center); *Fairfield, Avenue Q* and *Once* (Miner's Alley); *Mama Mia* (Lake Dillon Theater Company); and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at Candlelight.

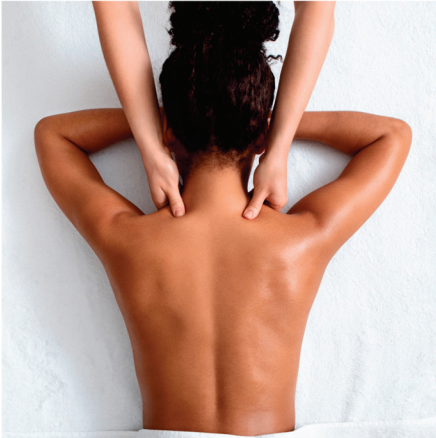
### **Zeah Loren | Actor (Southsider/Ensemble)**

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*

Zeah Loren a local poet and teaching artist earned a bachelor's in Theater Arts with minor in Film Studies and Creative Writing. While attending The University of Northern Colorado she became a published writer and was a part of numerous productions. Her favorites include performing original poetry for climate strikes, hosting UNC's jazz festivals, or shining on stage in UNC's first-ever Arts Equity Summit. Past performances include: *The Queens Ball: A Bridgerton Experience*, *Bodies of Culture*, *Edmonds Stories*, *All Shook Up*, *Cadillac Crew*, *Untold Stories of Black Women* and *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*. Miss Loren would like to thank her family and ancestors for their endless love and support.

Instagram: @zeahloren

Producers additional comment: Zeah Loren saved the day during our production of *All Shook Up* earlier this season, when she stepped in for a leading role that she had not been contracted to understudy. Ms. Loren said, "I think I can do it". And with less than a day's worth of preparation Zeah Loren absolutely DID do it! (And brilliantly.) Her act of bravery ensured that the show did, indeed, go on as scheduled despite the original actor and understudy both being out sick. She's a star in our book! Thank you, Zeah Loren!



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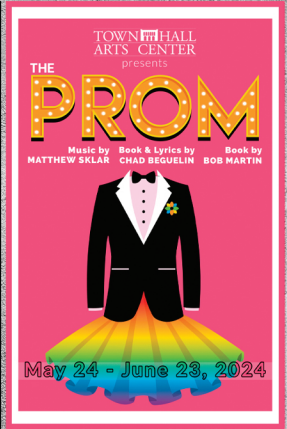
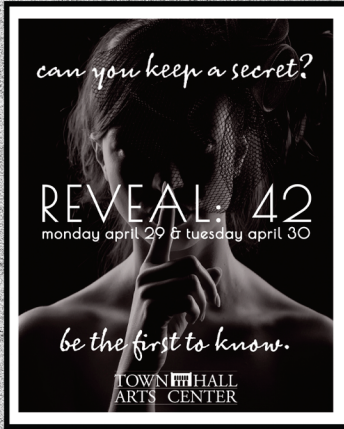
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