

# PROCTORS



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## CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

RAFIKI	.....	Gugwana Dlamini
MUFASA	.....	Gerald Ramsey
SARABI	.....	Allison Danielle Semmes
ZAZU	.....	Drew Hirshfield
SCAR	.....	Peter Hargrave
YOUNG SIMBA (at certain performances)	.....	Jackson Hayes, Mason Lawson
YOUNG NALA (at certain performances)	.....	Jaxyn Damasco, Aniya Simone
SHENZI	.....	Martina Sykes
BANZAI	.....	Forest VanDyke
ED	.....	Robbie Swift
TIMON	.....	Nick Cordileone
PUMBAA	.....	John E. Brady
SIMBA	.....	Darian Sanders
NALA	.....	Khalifa White
ENSEMBLE SINGERS	.....	Derek Adams, Isaiah Bailey, Thembelihle Cele, Camille Eanga-Selenge, Mukelisiwe Goba, Joel Karie, Gabisile Manana, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel, Sicelo Ntshangase, Christopher Sams, Allison Danielle Semmes, Jennifer Theriot
ENSEMBLE DANCERS	.....	Iman Ayana, Samantha Lauren Barriento, Layla Brent, Vernon Brooks III, Sasha Caicedo, Marquis Floyd, Samaree Lawson, Sayiga Eugene Peabody, Maia Schechter, Courtney Thomas, Jordan Nicole Willis
STANDBYS	.....	SCAR: William John Austin, Tony Freeman; ZAZU: Tony Freeman; 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*—Thembelihle Cele, Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Yael Pineda-Hall;

*Mufasa*—Isaiah Bailey, Aaron Nelson, Christopher Sams;

*Sarabi*—Daniela Cobb, Camille Eanga-Selenge, Yael Pineda-Hall, Jennifer Theriot, Brinie Wallace;

*Zazu*—Robbie Swift; *Scar*—Aaron Nelson; *Shenzi*—Daniela Cobb, Yael Pineda-Hall, Jennifer Theriot, Brinie Wallace;

*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, Marq Moss, Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel;

*Nala*—Thembelihle Cele, 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, Marq Moss, Yael Pineda-Hall, Brinie Wallace

### 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*—Vernon Brooks III, Marquis Floyd; *Lioness Chant Vocal*—Sicelo Ntshangase; *Acrobatic Trickster*—Sayiga Eugene Peabody; *Giraffe Shadow Puppets*—Isaiah Bailey, Jeremy Noel;

*Cheetah*—Sasha Caicedo; *Stilt Giraffe*—Courtney Thomas; *Scar Shadow Puppet*—Isaiah Bailey, Jeremy Noel,

Christopher Sams; *Simba Shadow Puppet*—Derek Adams, Joel Karie, Aaron Nelson, Sicelo Ntshangase;

*One By One Vocal*—Mukelisiwe Goba, Sicelo Ntshangase, Yael Pineda-Hall; *One By One Dance*—Nhlanhla Ndlovu,

Christopher Sams; *Fireflies*—Jordan Nicole Willis; *Pumbaa Pole Puppet*—Samaree Lawson;

*Nala Pole Puppet*—Sasha Caicedo; *Lioness/Hyena Shadow Puppets*—Thembelihle Cele,

Camille Eanga-Selenge, Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Yael Pineda-Hall, Jennifer Theriot.

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

### ORCHESTRA

**Conductor**—Karl Shymanovitz

*Associate Conductor*—Dean Balan

*Keyboard 1*—Danny White; *Keyboard 2/Assistant Conductor*—Paul McCaffrey;

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

*Percussion*—Raphael Torn, Reuven Weizberg; *Flutes*—Tereasa Payne; *French Horn*—Tim Riley.

**Music Coordinator**—Michael Keller

Based on the Disney film

## THE LION KING

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

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

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## SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

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

### ACT TWO

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

*THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION*

#### SONG CREDITS

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

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

#### ADDITIONAL SCORE

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



#### WARNING

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

Disney  
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**LION KING**

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they belong, are respected and free  
from discrimination.

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Disney  
THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

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## 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*: *The Breath of Life*, *Rainbows of Paradise*, *The Ali'i Luau* at The Polynesian Cultural Center. *Tupulaga O Samoa Mo A Taaao* at The Merrie Monarch Festival. Ever thankful for the support of friends and especially the love of my aiga. Honored to represent the pride that has come before us. Fa'atuatua - Fa'amoemoe - Alofa IG: @ramsey.gt

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

**NICK CORDILEONE** (*Timon*). Off-Broadway: *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). FILM: *Step Up 2* IG: @milquetoastpoints LOVE: Amy, Hero, & Guthrie.

**DREW HIRSHFIELD** (*Zazu*) is happy to return to The Lion King. In addition to a previous stint as Zazu, he is lucky enough to have worked on plays by Bertolt Brecht, Sandy Rustin, Arthur Miller, Robert Askins, Jordan Seavey, Lucas Knath, Steve Martin, Peter Shaffer, Lanford Wilson, Oliver Goldsmith, Tom Stoppard, Neil Simon, Kate Hamill, Shakespeare, and many others, at theaters large and small across the county. He's long served on the faculty at New York Film Academy. Thanks to A+S, WTG+LG.

**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) (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* (Ronnelle), *School of Rock* 1st Nat; *Aida* (Aida), *Ain't Misbehavin*, *The Bodyguard*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Dreamgirls*, *Beehive*, *Hairspray*, *HKDL|WDW(Nala/Tiana/Kibibi)|NCL*, #TheSearchForRoxie, UCF Alumknight. Thank you God, family, friends & Dave. Check out "You Ok? (Black Girl)" on all streaming platforms. IG/TikTok: @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.theARTmission.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

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

beautiful wife, Lisa. You are my heart, my life, and my inspiration. Thanks for marrying me.

**JAXYN DAMASCO** (*Young Nala at certain performances*). From Phoenix, AZ, Jaxyn is thrilled to make her Broadway National Tour debut in *The Lion King!* Thank you to the entire Disney team and Binder Casting. Very grateful to family, friends, Renee Koher, Kenny Grossman, Karen McCollester, Spotlight Youth Theatre, and ABT for their love and support! Instagram @jaxyn.damasco

**JACKSON HAYES** (*Young Simba at certain performances*) is thrilled to be making his debut in *The Lion King*. He was last seen in the Choir School of Delaware production of *Once on This Island* and *Christmas on Frenchtown Road*. He enjoys writing music and spending time with his brothers Jared and Jordan. @tre\_jacksonhayes

**MASON LAWSON** (*Young Simba at certain performances*). A 10-year-old from Atlanta, GA, Mase is ecstatic to make his Broadway Tour debut. He has trained under playwright and Emmy nominated songwriter Stepp Stewart, AGI Entertainment and Music Studio Atlanta. Mase has performed in numerous regional productions including: *Motown Motor City Revue*, *A Soulful Christmas* & Fox Theatre Summer Concert Series. IG: @mase\_lawson

**ANIYA SIMONE** (*Young Nala at certain performances*) is excited to join the Pridelands! (Credits) Broadway: *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* National Tour, TV: "Disney's Sydney to the Max," Film: *The Microchip that Ruined Halloween*. She has a single out called "Imagination." Aniya loves spending time with her family, singing and dancing. IG: @aniya.simone

**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." @sangisaiiah

**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

**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.

**VERNON BROOKS III** (*Ensemble*). Born and raised in New Orleans, Vernon is a graduate of Pace University and has performed with Martha Graham Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company and Parsons Dance Co. Vernon is honored to now be part of *The Lion King*.

**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: @ChristinByrdson

**SASHA CAICEDO** (*Ensemble*) was born and raised in Miami, Florida. She trained at New World School of the Arts for both the HS and BFA program. Sasha has performed on stages such as the San Francisco

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

Opera House, Adrienne Arsht Center, The Fillmore, Perez Art Museum, Lincoln Theater. She is forever grateful to have the opportunity of traveling and being on stage with such a company. IG: @Delayla

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

**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

**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."

**MUKELISIWE GOBA** (*Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki*) was born in Durban, South Africa. Training: Mbongeni Ngema's Academy. Credits: *K-Cap,*

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

**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 Kennedy (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.

**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.

**MARQ MOSS** (*Swing, Understudy Simba*). Native Washingtonian. Clark Atlanta University alumnus. Theater Credits: *The Lion King, Motown: The Musical* (1st Nat'l & Bway). Creative Director/Stylist: Salt-N-Pepa, Naughty By Nature, I Love The 90s Vegas Show, New Kids On The Block Mixtape Tour, RNB Fridays (Australia/New Zealand). Founding Board: @HarlemParade IG: @marqmoss www.marqmoss.com

**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

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

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, Siceelo 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** (*Swing, Understudy, Rafiki, Sarabi & Shenzi*). *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

**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 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

**BRINIE WALLACE** (*Swing, Understudy Shenzi & Sarabi*) is so honored to join the legacy of the legendary *The Lion King!* BrinieWallace.com. PSU'12. Special thanks to: Roger Graziani, YoungArts Foundation, Avalon Artists Group, her family, the Volkman's, the Tombros', Jen Waldman, Dr. Beverly Patton and Kate Emerich.

**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.

**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

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

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

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

tions 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 world-wide 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*

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

on the Block and Listen Up with Quincy Jones; the feature films *Outbreak* (Warner Bros.), *Congo* (Warner Bros.) and *Born to Be Wild* (Paramount); he is the composer and co-producer of the *Legend of Tarzan* theme song, "Opar;" and the Disney television special "People." He has performed on the Academy Awards® and the Essence Awards Show, with Vanessa Redgrave at Kthimi-The Return in Kosovo, and been honored by Artists for a Free South Africa.

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

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

**IRENE MECCHI** (*Book*) began her association with Disney in March 1992, when she wrote *Recycle Rex*, an animated short, which won the 1994 Environmental Media Award. Irene is a co-writer of Disney's animated features *The Lion King*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Hercules*. Along with co-author Roger Allers, she received a 1998 Tony® nomination for writing the book for *The Lion King*. Irene also wrote the teleplay for "Annie," directed by Rob Marshall. She shares a writing credit on Disney Pixar's *Brave*. Irene adapted *Peter Pan* for NBC's Live production and is currently adapting a stage musical for the Universal Theatrical Group.

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

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

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

Canada); *Le Coq D'or*; *La Bayadere* and *Raymonda* (Royal Danish Ballet); *Wagner's Ring Cycle* (Teatro Massimo, Palermo); *Versailles* (Donmar Warehouse); *La Traviata* (Grange Park); *The Sleeping Beauty* (American Ballet Theatre at The Metropolitan Opera/La Scala, Milan); *Morgen und Abend* (Royal Opera House/Deutsche Oper); *Romeo and Juliet* (Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow); *Wake* (Birmingham Opera Company); *The Outsider* (The Print Room); and costumes for *Yumé* (Opera de Reims); *Peter Grimes* (Opera de Lyon); and *Asters* (New National Opera of Japan); and the sets for Leopoldstadt by Tom Stoppard (Wynham's Theatre, London).

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

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

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

**CLEMENT ISHMAEL** (*Music Supervisor*) is a conductor, composer and arranger. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto and Royal Conservatory of Music, where he specialized in composition and conducting as well as singing with Joyce Britten. He was Associate Conductor of the Royal Conservatory of Music Choirs under the tutelage of Denise Nacisse-Mair. After graduating he continued his studies in conducting and composition at the Guildhall School of Music in London. Conducting credits include: Abbey Players Opera Company, Ad Astra Chorus, Addison Jazz Ensemble and West London Gospel Choir. He also conducted the new ballet *Awakening* at Sadlers Wells. West End credits include: *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *Soul Train*. He has also directed and arranged the music for numerous shows which include: *Sweet Lorraine*, *Up Against the Wall*, *The Amen Corner*, *The Grape Vine*, *The Cavalcadors* and *Gem of the Ocean* at the Tricycle Theatre. His classical compositions and arrangements have been performed worldwide as well as being broadcast by BBC Television and Radio. His first Opera, *Looking at the Sun*, was performed at the Battersea Arts Centre, and his opera *Grazyna* was performed at the Royal Opera House's Lindbury

Studio. Clement's latest commission, for the London Piano Trio, was debuted at the Capri Music Festival in Italy. He also successfully performed in concert his new album *Poetry in Song* at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. There are plans for further performances in London, Paris and New York. His next major composition is his third Opera, *Antigone*, with the Canadian librettist Mel Coop.

**ROBERT ELHAI** (*Associate Music Producer, Orchestrator*). This Tony® and Drama Desk nominee has arranged and orchestrated Oscar®, GRAMMY®, and Emmy®-winning music for composers Elliot 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®, Grammy®, and Drama Desk® nominated arranger, orchestrator, composer, and music producer. His Broadway credits include *The Lion King* and *Frozen*, and he has over 75 films to his credit, including *Frozen*, *Frozen II*, *Moana*, *Tarzan*, *WandaVision*, and *The Avengers*. He has contributed to multiple Academy®, Grammy®, Tony®, and Emmy® Award winning projects, as well as 17 Platinum and Gold records, and 33 winning or nominated Annie Award films.

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

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

**CHRISTOPH BUSKIES** (*KeyComp Programming*). Christoph's revolutionary music system KeyComp has been successfully implemented worldwide in "Frozen", "Aladdin", "The Little Mermaid", "Sister Act", "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King". More information available through [www.keycomp.com](http://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

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

*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 Park*, *Wanda's World*. Regional theatres including: Ogunquit Playhouse, Fulton Theatre, Crossroads The-

atre 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 Destiny* (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, leader in performing arts medicine. We are honored to be part of this amazing Rafiki Tour.

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

**ARC/MARK BRANDON, CSA** (*Casting*). 150+ productions across the globe & 13 Artios Awards for Casting. Broadway/NY Past & Present Productions include: *Life of Pi*, *Chicago the Musical*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Hadestown*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Great Comet of 1812*, *Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes*, *39 Steps*, *Pippin*, *La Cage aux Folles*. TV/Film: Netflix, 20th Century Fox, NBC, Lionsgate, Disney Channel. West End/U.K.: *Hadestown*, *Thriller Live*, *Menier Chocolate Factory*. *Tours: 1776*, *Hairspray*, *Waitress*, *Urinetown*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, *Finding Neverland*, *Into the Woods*, *We Will Rock You*. Regional: A.R.T., Berkeley Rep, Alley, Bay Street, Ogunquit Playhouse, Goodspeed, Hollywood Bowl, McCarter, Signature. ARC, Part of RWS Global. [www.castingbyarc.com](http://www.castingbyarc.com) IG: castingbyarc

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

**DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS (DTP)**, a division of The Walt Disney Studios, was formed in 1994 and operates under the direction of Thomas Schumacher. Worldwide, its 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, playing a remarkable 13-year run on Broadway and produced in replica productions around the world over three decades. 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 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 and 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. *Tarzan*®, Tony-nominated for its 2006 Broadway premiere, 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, winning 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 nine productions around the globe and been seen by more than 14 million guests. DTP's newest hit, the 2018 Tony-nominated Best Musical *Frozen* currently has four productions around the world. 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 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* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*. 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 – August 3, 2023

### Staff for THE LION KING Worldwide

SVP, Production and Co-Producer	..... Anne Quart
General Manager	..... Thomas Schlenk
Production Supervisor	..... Lisa Dawn Cappel
Associate General Manager	..... Michael Height
Associate Director	..... Anthony Lyn
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Dance Supervisor	..... Celise Hicks
Music Supervisor	..... Clement Ishmael
Associate Music Supervisor	..... David Kreppeil
Associate Production Supervisor	..... Charles Underhill
Technical Director	..... David Churchill
Associate Scenic Designer	..... Peter Eastman
Assistant Scenic Designer	..... Justin Arienti
Associate Costume Designer	..... Jack Galloway
Associate Costume Designer (US)	..... Stacey Stephens
Associate Mask & Puppet Designer	..... Sophie Jones
Associate Sound Designer	..... John Shivers
Assistant Sound Designer	..... Kevin Kennedy
Associate Hair & Makeup Designer	..... Ashley Rorer
Associate Hair & Makeup Designer	..... Ute Mai
Associate Lighting Designer	..... Carolyn Wong
Lighting Supervisor	..... Jeanne Koenig
Assistant Lighting Designer	..... Martin Vreeland
Manager, Production	..... Elizabeth Boulger
Manager, Production	..... Christina Huschle
Production Coordinator	..... Bri Silva

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### Staff for THE LION KING

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

Stage Manager	..... Charles Underhill
Assistant Stage Managers	..... Karen Parfalo, Michelle Scalapone
Sub Stage Managers	..... Sarah Elizabeth Ford, GWendylin M. Gilliam,
	..... Joshua Pilote, Dean Remington
Dance Captains	..... Kayla Rose Aimable, Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr.
Fight Captain	..... Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr.
Assistant Choreographers	..... Norwood J. Pennewell, Natalie Rogers
Adapted Choreography	..... Aubrey Lynch II
Physical Movement Coordinator	..... Lorenzo Pisoni

Production Carpenter	..... Andrew Sullivan
Touring Technical Supervisor	..... Patrick Eviston
Production Electrician	..... Jimmy Maloney
Production Wardrobe Supervisor	..... Stacey Stephens
Production Hair & Make Up Supervisor	..... Cheryl V. Thomas
Production Mask & Puppet Supervisor	..... Antje Gern
Head Carpenters	..... Christopher Belanger, Brendan King
Automation Carpenter	..... Spencer Yeoman
Flyman	..... Tim Buzza
Carpenters	..... Jermaine Brown, Chad Stanner
Travel Supervisor	..... Ryan Belanger
Head Electrician	..... Jen Guethlein
Front Light Operator	..... Eric Hill
Moving Light Programmer	..... Brad Gray
Conventional Light Programmer	..... Melissa Shippers
Moving Light Tracker	..... Brandon Bagwell
Automated Lighting Electrician	..... Andrew Yord
Production Prop Supervisor	..... Eric Hagenbarth
Head Properties	..... Pat Lohrer
Assistant Properties	..... Katy Brown
Sound Engineer	..... Ben Madden
Assistant Sound Engineer	..... Brian Kallather
Advance Sound Engineer	..... Andrew Yord
Wardrobe Supervisor	..... Debbie Burkman-Margolies
Assistant Costume Supervisor	..... Nicole Ferrigno
Advance Wardrobe	..... Dawn Reilly
Wardrobe Assistants	..... Jeremy Davis-Towle, Quinto Ott
Puppet Supervisor	..... Michael Reilly
Puppet Assistants	..... Brandon Kirkham, Bruce Paul Reilly, Dion Vernon
Production Hair Supervisor	..... Latasha Dayes
Hair & Makeup Supervisor	..... Kerry Lacy Stowhas
Hair & Makeup Assistants	..... Kendell Dempster, Danae Jimenez
Crew Swings	..... Barry Bradford, Kersten Gavin, Steve Templeton
Advance Carpenters	..... Cris Cory, Alex Forrest, Otis Renegar, Louis Riquelme
Advance Electricians	..... Robert Ferrice, Michael R. Neumann,
	..... James Sample, Meg Sump
Touring Stagehand Apprentice	..... Lauryn Buchanan-Camacho

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Costumes executed by Parsons-Meares Ltd, Donna Langman, Eric Winterling Inc., Jan Parran, and Timberlake Studios Inc. Millinery by Monica Viani and Jack C Schmitz. Craftwork by Ilya Vett, Arlene Lind-Watson, and Daniel Muro. Shironi dyeing by Joan Morris. Custom dyeing and painting by Jon Johns, Gene Mignola, Nicola Killeen Textiles, Mary Macy, and Parsons-Meares. Knitwear by Mark Lauer and Donna Diron. Footwear by Steppin Out, Jitterbug Boy, Sara Mullins. Gamba and Onstage Dance. Additional crafts by Jeffrey Colton, Noelle Rasco and Keindre Morgan. Costume development by Constance Hoffman. Additional research and development by Patricia Fistes-Adams. Wigs by Samantha Fletcher at the Wig Workshop UK, Cheatoh skins and Make-up stamps made by Mike Defeo in the USA. Specialists brushes made by Joseph Beagley. Make-up supplied by MAC. Make-up Forever Professional Make-up, Alcone, Skin Care by Kiehl's. Lighting supplied by PRG; Automated lighting by Philips Vari'Lite and Recording. Clay Paky, and ETC/High End Systems. Custom Accessories by City Theatrical. Lighting Props by Technical Artistry. Custom Templates by Wyatt Enever Studio. Puppets and Props by Michael Curry Design, Inc., The Paragon Innovation Group Inc., and The Rabbit's Choice. Automation and mechanized scenery by Hudson Scenic Studios, additional scenery by Proof Productions, Scenic Arts Studios, Rose Brand, Gerriets International, I Weiss & Sons, Flying by Foy, Hands On Rigging Inc., Airworxx, Sigma Services; Custom trusses by Tyler Truss, Tomcat USA; trucking by Clark Transfer. Sound equipment by Masque Sound and Recording. Instruments by Jeff Whittier; Patrick Owell; Tim Liu; Lark in the Morning; Beverly Pan Flutes; Bass equipment by Eden Electronics; Marimbas by Marimba One, Traditional Percussion Instruments by Bernard Woma, Motherland Music, and Wula Drums. Cymbals by Istanbul-Agop. Other percussion provided by Steve Weiss Music.

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This production is produced in collaboration with our professional, union-represented employees.

*The Lion King* originally premiered at the  
Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis, MN

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



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**SONG EXCERPTS (used by permission):** "Let It Go" written by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez;  
"The Lion Sleeps Tonight" written by Hugo Peretti, George David Weiss, Luigi Creatore and Solomon Linda;  
"Nao Tse Tsa" written by Jacques Loubeau;

"Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" written by Joe Young, Ray Henderson and Sam M. Lewis.

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If you are interested in information about becoming a member of the Proctors Legacy Society or have already included Proctors in your estate plans, contact Barbara Bishop Ward at (518) 382-3884 x133 or [bward@proctors.org](mailto:bward@proctors.org).

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