



LYRIC
STAGE

THE WONDER
WOMEN OF
SEASON 27

Abyssinia

MAJESTIC THEATRE
FEBRUARY 14-16 2020

GARLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



MAY 8
7:30 P.M.

GARLAND CIVIC THEATRE

**YOU
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TAKE IT
WITH
YOU**

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hilarious
comedy!



MARCH 19-
APRIL 5



GRANVILLE ARTS CENTER
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Tickets: 972-205-2790, GarlandArtsBoxOffice.com



Founding Producer
STEVEN JONES

Producer
CATHERINE C. COX

present

Abyssinia

Music & Book by
TED KOCIOLEK

Lyrics & Book by
JAMES RACHEFF

Original Orchestrations by
DARYL WATERS

Based upon the novel *Marked By Fire* by **Joyce Carol Thomas**

starring

JADEN DOMINIQUE CAROL Y. DENNIS*

with

**BRITTANEE BAILEY FELECEIA BENTON* CHIMBERLY CARTER BYROM* J. DONTRAY DAVIS*
SELMORE HAINES, III LOUISE HARRIS D'MARIEL JONES AUSBEN JORDAN II CANALI MILLER
RODNEY MORRIS RACHAEL PALMER NATASHA WELLS CRYSTAL WILLIAMS**

Lighting Designer
SCOTT GUENTHER

Sound Designer
JORGE GUERRA

Scenic Designer
DONNA MARQUET

Costume & Props Coordinator
ALASTAIR SIGALA RAMIREZ

Associate Music Director
BRUCE GREER

Assistant Director
PTOSHA STOREY

Fight Choreographer
JEFF COLANGELO

Choreographer
BRITTANEE BAILEY

New & Additional Orchestrations
BRUCE GREER

Stage Manager
ASHLEY NEWMAN*

Assistant Stage Manager
ANIA LYONS*

General Manager
CHRISTOPHER J. DEATON

Music Director & Conductor
SHEILAH VAUGHN WALKER

Director & Musical Staging
AKIN BABATUNDÉ

MAJESTIC THEA TRE
February 14–16, 2020



* Lyric Stage is a professional Theatre employing members of *Actors' Equity Association*, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Performance rights for *Abyssinia* are licensed through Ted Kociolek & James Racheff.

This playbill is a production of **PERFORMING ADS**

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"The state of trauma can produce an element of reliving the tragic event over and over again. The gift of trauma/tragedy can provide an opportunity to triumph, and eventually transform into a new state of being, and certainly freedom. This was most apparent in the biblical figure Job, when his faith was tested. This is apparent in the African Diaspora ('the dispersion of any people from their original homeland') related to the middle passage, where thousands of slaves were tragically deposited in the Atlantic ocean. Yet, the descendants of these slaves in America transformed their suffering into gifts, including the gift of music (jazz, spirituals, rap). This evening, in Stillwater, Oklahoma, the story of Abyssinia's tragedy to triumph to transformation, is exemplified in her journey. It is a glorious tale of the human experience, to which we all can relate.

- Akin Babatundé -

Abyssinia Director (SDC)

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

RISE AND FLY	COMPANY
SONG OF THE FIELD	COMPANY
SWEET MERCIFUL FATHER.....	MOTHER VERA
ABYSSINIA	COMPANY
LIFT UP YOUR VOICE	ABYSSINIA, COMPANY
THE SONG OF MOTHER SAMUELS	ABYSSINIA, MOTHER SAMUELS
SALLY CONFRONTS ABBY	ABYSSINIA, TREMBLING SALLY
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON	ABYSSINIA
RECIPE.....	MOTHER VERA, PATIENCE, ABYSSINIA
HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND.....	STRONG
LET US SING PRAISE.....	ABYSSINIA, STRONG, PATIENCE, MOTHER VERA, SALLY
RAGTIME PROMENADE.....	MOTHER VERA, COMPANY
BLACKBERRY WINE	MARCUS, LEON, JESSE
A FINE AND LOVELY WOMAN.....	STRONG, ABYSSINIA
CARRY ME, LORD	PATIENCE, COMPANY
BLACKBERRY WINE (REPRISE)	MARCUS, LEON, JESSE
A CHILD LIES WOUNDED.....	MOTHER VERA, COMPANY
ABBY'S LAMENT	ABYSSINIA, COMPANY
ACT 1 FINALE	COMPANY

ACT 2

OPENING ACT II.....	ORCHESTRA
PICKIN' UP THE PIECES.....	MINISTER, COMPANY
TEN LITTLE CHILDREN.....	TREMBLING SALLY
GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN.....	SELMA, MAVIS, CORINE
SISTERS OF HEALING (PART 1).....	PATIENCE, SELMA, MAVIS, CORINE
HONEY AND LEMON.....	MOTHER VERA
SISTERS OF HEALING (PART 2).....	PATIENCE, SELMA, MAVIS, CORINE
I HAVE SEEN THE WIND	MOTHER VERA, TREMBLING SALLY, ABYSSINIA
RISE AND FLY (REPRISE).....	COMPANY
LIFT UP YOUR VOICE (REPRISE).....	ABYSSINIA, COMPANY
BOWS	ORCHESTRA

CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Featured Dancer	BRITTANEE BAILEY
Trembling Sally , Abby's Nemesis.....	FELECEIA BENTON*
Patience Jackson , Abby's Mother.....	CHIMBERLY CARTER BYROM*
Minister , Pastor of the Stillwater Solid Rock Baptist Church	J. DONTRAY DAVIS*
Mother Vera , Abby's Godmother, a Folk Healer.....	CAROL Y. DENNIS*
Abyssinia "Abby" Jackson , a Praise Singer	JADEN DOMINIQUE
Brother Samuels , Deacon of the Church, Field Foreman.....	SELMORE HAINES, III
Selma , Elder of the Church, Mavis & Corine's Cousin, a Spinster.....	LOUISE HARRIS
Leon , a Young Man from Ponca City.....	D'MARIEL JONES
Strong Jackson , Abby's Father, a Farmer.....	AUSBEN JORDAN II
Jesse , a Young Man from Ponca City.....	CANALI MILLER
Marcus , a Young Man from Ponca City.....	RODNEY MORRIS
Mother Samuels , a Frail, Elderly Woman.....	RACHAEL PALMER
Lily Noreen Lewis , Abby's Best Friend.....	RACHAEL PALMER
Mavis , Elder of the Church, Corine's Sister, a Laundress.....	NATASHA WELLS
Corine , Elder of the Church, Mavis' Sister, a Laundress.....	CRYSTAL WILLIAMS

DANCE CAPTAIN
RODNEY MORRIS

FIGHT CAPTAIN
AUSBEN JORDAN II

* Denotes Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



ORCHESTRA

Conductor	SHEILAH VAUGHN WALKER
Keyboard	BRUCE GREER
Concertmaster, Violin I	JUNSOO PARK
Violin II	ELIJAH EVANS
Viola	ERIC JONES
Double & Electric Bass	JOEL MACMILLAN
Reed 1	CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ
Reed 2	KRISTEN THOMPSON
Trumpet	OLIVIA FUNKHOUSER
French Horn	TYLER BJERKE
Trombone	MARTY KOBUCK
Percussion	ASHLEY WESTGATE
Contractor & Personnel Manager	MIGUEL CANTU IV

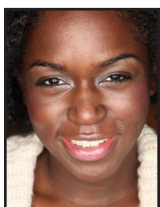
PRODUCTION TEAM

General, Production, & Company Manager	CHRISTOPHER J. DEATON
Accountant	GILLIAN ADAMS, <i>Adams Accounting</i>
Publicist	KATIE-ROSE WATSON, <i>KRPR</i>
Graphic Designer.....	DAVID FIEGENSCHUE, <i>FigDesign</i>
Insurance Agent.....	RYAN LUNA, <i>Moon Shepherd Baker Insurance Agency, Inc.</i>
Ticketing Agent.....	<i>TicketDFW</i>
Keyboard Rental.....	JESSE FRY, <i>Trekorda</i>
Percussion Rental	<i>DFW Percussion Rentals, LLC</i>
Audition, Tech Rehearsal Pianist	JESSE FRY, <i>Trekorda</i>
Rehearsal Pianist	BRUCE GREER
Director's Casting Consultant.....	KIMBERLY OLIVER
Associate Props Coordinator.....	CHRISTOPHER J. DEATON
Prop Rental (select).....	BRADY FLOCK, <i>Casa Mañana</i>
Associate Costume Coordinator.....	CHRISTOPHER J. DEATON
Costume Rental (select)	TAMMY SPENCER, <i>Casa Mañana</i>
Scenic Build & Rental (select)	LANCE BAKER, <i>Dallas Stage Scenery</i>
Audio Engineer.....	JORGE GUERRA
Mic & Sound Board Rental.....	BRYAN STEVENSON
Lighting Rental (select).....	SCOTT GUENTHER, <i>SEG Services</i>
Audio Technician & A2.....	GRAHAM SINCLAIR, <i>Majestic Theatre</i>
Lighting Programmer & Board Op	GRANT BARRETT, <i>Majestic Theatre</i>
Flyman.....	MARK WALTERS, <i>Majestic Theatre</i>
Deck Carp	LUTHER HOLDAR, <i>Majestic Theatre</i>
Audition Venue	<i>Dallas Opera's Karayanis Center</i>
Rehearsal Venue.....	<i>Soar Creative Studios</i>
Majestic Theatre General Manager	MICHAEL SCHWEDLER
Majestic Theatre Senior Technical Director	TRAVIS PORTER
Majestic Theatre Business Manager	HAYLEY DYER

LYRIC STAGE STAFF

Founding Producer.....	STEVEN JONES
Producer.....	CATHERINE CARPENTER-COX
General Manager.....	CHRISTOPHER J. DEATON
Accountant	GILLIAN ADAMS, <i>Adams Accounting</i>
Publicist	KATIE-ROSE WATSON, <i>KRPR</i>
Graphic Design	DAVID FIEGENSCHUE, <i>FigDesign</i>
Schmidt & Jones Awards Coordinator & Head Judge.....	AMY STEVENSON

ABOUT THE CAST



BRITTANEE BAILEY (*Featured Dancer*) Lyric Stage debut! Most recently, Brittanee originated the role of Tinker Bell in *PETE: A New Dance Musical* (Dark Circles Contemporary Dance). Additional theatre credits include: *Aida*; *The Wild Party*; *Cabaret*; *Hairspray*; *In The Heights*; *Children of Eden*; *West Side Story*; *Ragtime*.



FELECEIA BENTON* (*Trembling Sally*) is excited to return to Lyric Stage. Favorite credits include: *Newsies*, *As Thousands Cheer* (Lyric Stage); *Porgy & Bess* (Dallas Opera); *Aida*, *Ragtime*, *Songs for a New World* (Uptown Players); *Les Misérables*, *The Wiz* (DTC); *Godspell*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (WTT). BFA/BS Texas Christian University. "Love to Frankie, Zoe, family and Jesus" @heyfeleceia // www.Feleceia.com



CHIMBERLY CARTER BYROM* (*Patience Jackson*) is delighted to make her Lyric Stage debut, and thankful for another chance to share her gifts. Favorite credits include: *Disaster* (Uptown Players); *The Color Purple* (Jubilee Theatre); *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (WaterTower Theatre); *Caroline or Change* (Theatre Three); *Ain't Misbehavin* (Pollard Theatre); *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* (Dallas Children's Theater).



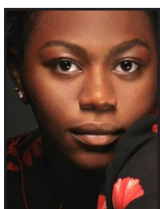
J. DONTRAY DAVIS* (*Minister*) is excited to return to the Majestic Theatre with Lyric Stage! Credits include: *Evita* (Lyric Stage); *Dreamgirls* (Dallas Theatre Center); *The Ballad of Little Jo*, *Sister Act* (WaterTower Theatre); *The Gifts of the Magi*, *Working* (Jubilee Theatre). "I am humbled and blessed to be a part of this experience."



CAROL DENNIS* (*Mother Vera*) is thrilled to return to Lyric Stage to reprise her role as Mother Vera in *Abyssinia*! Broadway Credits: Church Soloist in *The Color Purple* (OBC); *Street Corner Symphony* (OBC); *Big River* (OBC). Broadway National Tour Credits: Church Soloist in *The Color Purple*; *Once On This Island* (original cast); *The Wiz* (original cast). Additional Theater/Off-Broadway Credits Include: *Abyssinia*; *Mom's*; *The River*; *Mama I Want To Sing*. For her work in *Raisin* and the *The Hot Mikado*, Miss Dennis received 2003 and 2004 L.A. Ovation Award Nominations for Best Actress in a Musical. As a singer, Miss Dennis toured/recorded with artists Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Burt Bacharach and Pastor Andrae Crouch. TV/Film: *Sparks*; *Good News*; HBO's *The Josephine Baker Story* (soundtrack vocals of Josephine Baker). Miss Dennis gives thanks to God and her family.

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ABOUT THE CAST



JADEN DOMINIQUE (*Abyssinia Jackson*) is honored to make her professional and Lyric Stage debut with *Abyssinia*! Originally from California, Jaden is a Freshman at Texas Christian University, where she is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. Jaden was recently seen as Tina in Theatre TCU's production of *Sister Act*. Jaden is grateful for this opportunity, and would like to thank God, her family, the TCU Theatre Faculty, and the entire Production Team of *Abyssinia*.



SELMORE HAINES, III (*Brother Samuels*) is delighted to make his Lyric Stage debut! He has previously performed with Jubilee Theater, Shakespeare Dallas, AART, Uptown Players, Rover Dramawerks, and others. In 2017, Mr. Haines received the DFW Theater Critics Award as Best Lead Actor in a Play for his performance in Jubilee Theatre's production of *Thurgood*.



LOUISE HARRIS (*Selma*) is very happy to make her Lyric Stage debut with this beautiful production of *Abyssinia*! Louise originally hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is a proud mother of four (three daughters, one son), and proud grandmother of three (one grandson, two grand daughters). Thank you to cast and creative team for this opportunity and experience!



D'MARIEL JONES (*Leon*) is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre at Texas Christian University. Credits include: *In the Heights*, *A Christmas Carol* (ZACH Theatre); Frank/Ensemble in *Dreamgirls* (Venice Theatre); We Beseech Thee Soloist in *Godspell* (Trinity Street Players); Ensemble in *Sister Act*, and Tom in *Harriet Jacobs* (Theatre TCU).

Instagram: @dmariel_jones



AUSBEN JORDAN II (*Strong Jackson*) is agog to be working with Lyric Stage! Ausben was most recently seen as John Sage in Jubilee Theatre's *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, and as Jake in Fire House Theatre's production of *Side Show*. Favorite credits include: *Disney's Tarzan* on Broadway; *Wayne Brady's Las Vegas Show*; *West Side Story* in Sweden.

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ABOUT THE CAST



CANALI MILLER (Jesse) is a Senior Musical Theatre Major at TCU, and is excited to return to Lyric Stage, having last appeared in Lyric Stage's recent production of *Evita*. TCU credits include: *The Diviners*; *Batboy The Musical*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Sweeney Todd*. "Thank you to my family, friends, and Lyric Stage, for constantly supporting me! Enjoy!"



RODNEY MORRIS (Marcus) is thrilled to return to Lyric Stage. Favorite roles include: Coalhouse in *Ragtime*; Rocky in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*; Vince Fontaine/Teen Angel in *Grease*; Diesel in *Westside Story*; and many more. "Thank you to my family for always encouraging me to pursue my dreams!"



RACHAEL PALMER (Lily Noreen Lewis/Mother Samuels) is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre at Texas Christian University. Theatre TCU credits: Deloris in *Sister Act*; Goldie Short in *The Diviners*; Kyra in *BARE*. Other work includes debuting the show *Perspectives Off-Broadway*, as well as directing and debuting many productions in Houston, Texas. IG: @rachaelmari8



NATASHA WELLS (Mavis) Credits include: *Kismet*, *Pleasures & Palaces*, *Desert Song* (Lyric Stage); *Slave Letters*, *Confessions of the Slave Nat Turner* (MBS Productions); *Where Earth Meets the Sky* (Cara Mia Theatre); *Black Nativity* (Bishop Arts Theatre); *Shouting Down A Quiet Life* (Rover DramaWerks). Master of Music in Voice from SMU. Graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts.



CRYSTAL WILLIAMS (Corine) Credits include: *Cabin in the Sky* (Lyric Stage); *Porgy & Bess* (FW Opera); *Sister Act* (WTT); *This Random World* (Circle Theater); *The Color Purple*, *Alice Wonder*, *Harlem Blues*, *God's Trombones*, (Jubilee Theatre). "Thank you to my amazing family, especially Mother, Joseph III, Joseph IV, Jordyn, and Jonah!" B.A, B.F.A and M.Ed from Texas Wesleyan University.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

AKIN BABATUNDÉ (*Director/Musical Staging*) is a renowned and accomplished actor, director, and writer, whose career includes theatrical work on the Regional, Off-Broadway, and International stages of the world, as well as work in Film and Television. Mr Babatundé has been a resident company member of Trinity Repertory Theater, La Mama Theater, the Alley Theater, and the Tony Award-Winning Dallas Theater Center. Career highlights include: his one-man show *Before the Second Set-A Visit with Satchmo*, which he co-wrote with his brother, celebrated Emmy Award-Winning actor Obba Babatundé; directing and starring in his and Alan Govenar's Off-Broadway production of *Blind Lemon Blues*; and directing the Off-Broadway production of Alan Govenar's *Texas in Paris* starring Tony Award Winner Lillias White. DFW directing highlights include: *The Octoroon*, *Bootcandy* (Stage West); *Mountaintop* (Dallas Theater Center); *Manchild In The Promised Land* (Theater Three); *The Color Purple* (Jubilee Theater). Select honors include: D-Magazine Citation; Audelco Award; DFW Black Arts Irma Hall Medal of Excellence; Leon Rabin Award; Dallas Observer Best of the Best; Dallas Critics Forum Award (1991, 2004, 2015, 2016); UTD 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award; 2016 Theodore U. Holger Distinguished Artist-In-Residence for the School of Visual & Performing Arts at Lehigh University. Mr. Babatundé holds a Master of Arts Degree in Humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas, serves as an Adjunct Professor at Mountain View Community College, and is frequently a guest lecturer at many institutions of higher learning across the country. In 2020, Mr. Babatundé will serve as the Artistic Coordinator of the Playwrights Corner at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, will direct August Wilson's *Fences* at Civic Stage, and will star in *Between Riverside and Crazy* at Stage West. He is represented by the Mary Collins Agency.

BRITTANEE BAILEY (*Choreographer*) is thrilled and humbled to work as the Choreographer on this production, which is her choreographic debut with Lyric Stage. Brittanee began dancing at 15, and is well versed in Hip Hop, Ballet, Contemporary, Musical Theater, and Jazz, but especially loves African dance. Brittanee studied and received her degree in Musical Theatre Fine Arts at KD Conservatory, and furthered her education in dance through a work study at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City. In addition to working as a backup dancer for local artists and in music videos, Brittanee teaches improv dance to young artists.

MIGUEL CANTÚ IV (*Orchestra Contractor*) has been the Orchestra Personnel Manager and Contractor for Lyric Stage since 2014. As a musician, Miguel first played with Lyric Stage in 2010, and since that time has played in the orchestras of 33 Lyric Stage productions. Miguel has also performed with the Orchestra of New Spain, Texas Camerata, Crested Butte Music Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Austin Baroque Orchestra, Ars Lyrica in Houston, and is the violist with Quartet Galant, a period instrument string quartet. Miguel is also the Co-Founder and General Manager of American Baroque Opera Company – a Dallas-based opera company. Miguel attended Michigan State University and the University of North Texas, and currently resides in Plano.

JEFF COLANGELO (*Fight Choreographer*) has worked as a fight director and stunt coordinator for over 10 years. In addition to choreographing in Florida, Wisconsin, and Illinois, Jeff's work has been seen locally at a variety of theatre companies, including Undermain, Artstillery, Theatre Three, Stage West, Cara Mia, and the Dallas Theatre Center. Jeff has choreographed a wide variety of interesting, creative fight scenes, which has included wide scale battles with 50+ players, Jackson Pollack styled paint wars, ballet sword duels, and even a fight scene amongst dolphins. Jeff is also an accomplished producer, director, writer and actor, and serves as the Artistic Director of Prism Movement Theater. Jeff is a 2013 graduate of Southern Methodist University.

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

BRUCE GREER (*Associate Music Director/Orchestrator/Pianist*) is excited to be returning to Lyric Stage, where his Music Director credits include: *Mirette*; *Man of La Mancha*; *Songs for a New World*; *I Do! I Do!*; *The Majestic Unplugged*; *Newsies*. Other Lyric Stage credits include: *Pure Country*; *Of Thee I Sing*; *Anything Goes*; *Mame*; *Grand Hotel*. Other DFW credits: *The Cradle Will Rock*, *Master Class* (Brick Road Theatre); *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music* (PFamily Arts). Also an award-winning composer/pianist, Bruce has performed around the world as a solo artist and with Grammy-winner Cynthia Clawson. Composing musical theater is Bruce's passion, and his and lyricist Keith Ferguson's musicals *It's a Wonderful Life* (www.BroadwayLicensing.com) and *A Christmas Carol* have found success worldwide. The writing duo are currently developing *Hidden*, their musical based on the *Book of Esther*, and are adapting John Grisham's novel, *Skipping Christmas*. Bruce and his wife, Kim, have four sons and nine grandkids. www.BruceGreer.com

SCOTT GUENTHER (*Lighting Designer*) is excited to be designing his first show for Lyric Stage. His work has been seen with other local theatre companies, such as Uptown Players, Theatre Three, Stage West, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Jubilee Theatre, Garland Summer Musicals, and WaterTower Theatre. to name a few. Scott is the resident Lighting and Media Designer for The Turtle Creek Chorale. He started his career with The Dallas Opera and The Santa Fe Opera and soon moved on to design for dozens of Theatre, Dance and Choral companies while managing the technical needs of the Addison Theatre Centre for over 22 years. Scott is a graduate of The University of Texas, Arlington.

JORGE GUERRA (*Sound Designer & Engineer*) holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Texas Wesleyan University, is a member of both the United States Institute for Theatre Technology and the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association, and works full-time as Drafter/Designer for Stage Works in Fort Worth. Recent Sound Design and Engineer work includes: Lyric Stage (*Mirette*, *Evita*, *Man of La Mancha*), Dallas Theatre Center, Stage West, Rockwall Summer Musicals, TCC Southeast, and Texas Wesleyan University. Jorge is also a two-time KCACTF Regional Sound Design Award recipient, and participated in the LDI 2016 Internship Program in Las Vegas as well as the USITT Elite Training with Cirque du Soleil.

ANIA LYONS* (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be back with Lyric Stage, having served as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Mirette*. Acting credits include: *Newsies* (Lyric Stage); the World Premiere of *The Armor Plays: Cinched & Strapped* (Theater Three); *A Chorus Line*, *Disaster!* (Uptown Players); *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, *A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens* (Dallas Children's Theater); *Elemental: Nature's Rhapsody* (Elevator Project/ATTPAC); and many productions with The Firehouse Theater. Backstage credits include: *Seussical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Gypsy*, and *The Boyfriend* (Firehouse Theatre); *Broadway Our Way* (Uptown Players)! "Thank you to the Lyric team for this amazing opportunity!"

DONNA MARQUET (*Scenic Designer*) is pleased to be back with Lyric Stage, having previously designed Lyric Stage's 2019 production of *Mirette*, and 2014 production of *The Golden Apple*. Other Scenic Design credits include work with: Shakespeare Dallas; Jubilee Theatre; Dallas Theater Center; Kitchen Dog Theatre; WaterTower Theatre; Circle Theatre; South Coast Repertory Theatre; Theatre @ Boston Court; Center Theatre Group. Donna was awarded the Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle Bob Z Lifetime Achievement Award and has her MFA in Scenic Design UCSD. Donna is currently a faculty member at UNT.

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

ASHLEY NEWMAN* (Stage Manager) is a Dallas-based AEA Stage Manager. Recent productions include: *Mirette* at Lyric Stage; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, *Tuck Everlasting*, and *Ella Enchanted: The Musical*, all at Dallas Children's Theater. Other Stage Management credits include: *Young Frankenstein*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Hello, Dolly!* in Sullivan, IL. Ashley holds a BFA from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis, MO, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

ALASTAIR SIGALA RAMIREZ (Costume & Props Coordinator) is excited to return to Lyric Stage, where he most recently served as the Costume Coordinator for *Mirette*, Assistant Stage Manager and Props Coordinator for *Evita*, and as the Programmer/LX Board Op for *Man of La Mancha*. Alastair is a member of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology, and hold a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Texas Wesleyan University. At Wesleyan, Alastair's credits included *Avenue Q* (Puppet Design), *The Hostage* (Costume Design), *Important Hats of the Twentieth Century* (Costume Design), *Tartuffe* (Lighting Design), and *Oklahoma!* (Properties Design).

PTOSHA STOREY (Assistant Director) is excited to work with Lyric Stage on *Abyssinia*. Assistant Director credits include: *Mountaintop* (DTC); *Booty Candy* (Stage West); *The Color Purple*, *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Jubilee Theatre); *Spunk* (WaterTower Theatre). Director credits include: *A Woman Called Truth*, *A Glory Over Everything* (Dallas Children's Theater); *The Nacirema Society* (African American Repertory Theatre); *Steel Magnolias* (The Hudson Theatre). TV/Film credits: Brenda in the LIONS GATE feature film *Acrimony* along side Taraji P. Henson; series regular on *Tyler Perry's The Oval* on BET; recurring role as Chyna on Fox's hit series *Empire*; Lifetime Television's *Petals on the Wind*; Tilda in *Tyler Perry's If Loving You Is Wrong* on OWN Network.

SHEILAH VAUGHN WALKER (Music Director/Conductor) well-known for her artful work on Broadway and across the country as a Conductor, Music Director, Voice Coach, and Pianist, is happy to return to Lyric Stage, having recently served as the Music Director/Conductor for *Guys & Dolls* and *Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Notable and rewarding career highlights include: conducting *The Gershwin's Porgy & Bess* starring Audra McDonald, Norm Lewis, and David Alan Grier, which transferred to Broadway and won the 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical; conducting *Ragtime* starring Brian Stokes Mitchell and LaChanze; conducting the first National Tour of *The Color Purple*; serving as Musical Supervisor for *Ragtime* in Concert in London; conducting two Broadway touring companies of *Fiddler on the Roof*; conducting the 38-piece orchestra at New York City's Lincoln Center for the concert version of *Ragtime* starring Patina Miller, Norm Lewis, Lea Solonga, and Tyne Daly. Tour credits include: *Hello Dolly*, *Pal Joey*, *Grand Hotel*, *Singing in the Rain*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Funny Girl* and *South Pacific*, with such celebrities as Carol Channing, Jean Stapleton, Sir George Rose, Robert Goulet, Deborah Gibson, Joel Grey, Christine Ebersole, LaChanze, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and television stars Gregory Harrison, Alan Sues and Gavin McCleod. In DFW, Ms. Walker has conducted and served as the Music Director for many regional theatre productions, and won the Leon Rabin Award for Outstanding Music Direction for both Lyric Stage's *Ragtime* and WaterTower Theatre's *Urinetown*. Ms. Walker is also a ten-year teaching veteran, and former Chairman of the Vocal Department at the Dallas Arts Magnet High School, where she was voted Teacher of the Year for outstanding work at that school.

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LYRIC STAGE

Upcoming
performances

THE WONDER
WOMEN OF
SEASON 27

Cinderella

MAJESTIC THEATRE
JUNE 12-14 2020

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Cinderella

June 12-14, 2020

This musical adaptation of the classic story, CINDERELLA by Rodgers & Hammerstein (THE SOUND OF MUSIC, OKLAHOMA! SOUTH PACIFIC), was originally presented on television in 1957. Julie Andrews starred as Cinderella, and it was the most widely viewed program in the history of television. Successful made-for-tv recreations in 1965 (starring Lesley Ann Warren as Cinderella) and in 1997 (starring R&B/Pop singer Brandy as Cinderella and legendary artist Whitney Houston as her Fairy Godmother) transported new generations to the miraculous kingdom of dreams-come-true.

As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, the hearts of children and adults alike still soar when the slipper fits.

Don't miss this family-friendly musical, which is sure to be a hit!



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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

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. Equity is governed by its own members through an elected Council, representing principal actors, chorus actors and stage managers living in three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Members at large participate in Equity's governance through a system of regional Boards and Committees. Equity has 28 designated area liaison cities with over 100 members each.

TED KOCIOLEK (COMPOSER & CO-BOOK WRITER) is a noted composer, librettist, vocal coach, musical director, educator and pianist. As a writer, he is represented by *The Age of Innocence*, *Abyssinia* (Goodspeed Musicals, Arena Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, Lyric Stage), *Jolson: A New Vaudeville*, and has contributed songs to the revues *Shrinks!* by Nicky Silver, and *Crazy Love*, which had successful runs nationwide. Other composing credits include dance and incidental music, cabaret, industrials and special material. Ted has been affiliated with several Broadway shows, and worked extensively in regional theater as conductor, keyboardist and arranger. As a vocal coach, he has served on the faculties of NYU and Long Island University, and maintains a private practice at his home in New York City. Ted is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild. www.tedkociolek.com

JAMES RACHEFF (LYRICIST & CO-BOOK WRITER) has been a lyricist/bookwriter and playwright for more than thirty-five years. His shows have appeared on Broadway (*Oh, Kay!*), Off-Broadway (*Imperfect Chemistry*), major regional theatres such as Goodspeed Opera House, Cleveland Play House, Arena Stage, and internationally in Japan (*Club Moonlight*) and China (*The Joker's Game*, *MK-the Monkey King*). His play, *Feather on the Sea* (Icarus and Daedalus) was presented by Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and *100 Famous Views of Otzi* (the Iceman) had its Equity premiere in New Jersey in 2016. A longtime resident of Manhattan, he now lives on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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