

the justice theater
project

Black Nativity

in Concert



Dec. 10, 2022

**Joseph M. Bryan, Jr. Theater in the Museum Park,
NC Museum of Art**

sponsored by
Carol Woods Retirement Community



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www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org
thejusticetheaterproject@gmail.com
919-264-7089

From the ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



JERRY SIPP

**We have been through a lot together.
Even when we were apart.**

Nothing could have prepared me for the new reality of Covid. It was something I never imagined could happen to me, to us. When I first heard about the coronavirus, I, like many people, believed it was kinda like the flu and thought "don't panic." But I remembered the day that I DID panic. When I learned what we were really in for, I felt a fear so deeply in my bones that it has never left me.

The pandemic has changed all of us and has had a profound effect on our society. Everyone knows people who were directly affected by the illness, and we collectively mourn the loss of so many lives. Sheltering in place gave us time alone to think, to reassess what is really important to us. Times of great upheaval give us a chance to reset. They help us bond together to work to overcome the new challenges. Ideally, they give us the will to change things we should have changed all along.

The ramifications of the pandemic have made many social justice concerns worse due to the divisions of our politics and the damage to our economy. From these ashes, we can Rise like a Phoenix. But unlike the solitary Phoenix, we are so much stronger as a collective. We have an opportunity not just to recover and restore, but to rebuild. Renew. Reinvigorate. Reinvent our society for a better future.

All of the plays we present this season will show characters living in troubled times, connecting with others to not just move on, but move forward – upward – for a more just world. We can do the same.

- *Jerry Sipp*



Black Nativity Annual Sponsor



Grantors

The Justice Theater Project is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Justice Theater Project is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission. Supported by a grant from the Manbites Dog Theatre Fund.

Additional support provided by Carol Woods Retirement Community, AJ Fletcher Foundation, The Catholic Community of Saint Francis of Assisi, The LOVID Fund, AMCREF Community Capital, Triangle Wealth Management

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Raleigh
Arts



Manbites Dog
Theater Fund



From the

BOARD

Rise Like A Phoenix - Reshape Our Community For A More Just Society. Our 2022-2023 season theme focuses on growth and persistence. The shows we bring you this season explore how social justice often rises out of conflict. Our exciting and challenging slate of shows and discussions shine a light on issues through multiple lenses, and provide ways to reflect and avenues to take action.



SEAN GARGAN

Join us throughout the year and become a season subscriber. Our staff will personally take your reservations, accommodate all of your special seating needs, handle extra tickets for friends, and make sure you are the first to know about events and updates from The Justice Theater Project. As a subscriber, you help us define our season, support our work, engage in discussions, and elevate other nonprofits through the AJ Fletcher Advocate Spotlight program. Additional information about season subscriptions, including the popular "Pick 3" option is available in the lobby and on our website (www.thejusticetheaterproject.org).

Thank you for being at the theater with all of us at The Justice Theater Project. As we all Rise Like A Phoenix each day, let us remember to be kind to one another and to work to ensure social justice for all our brothers and sisters.

See you at the shows!

Sean Gargan

Sean Gargan

Board Chair

The Justice Theater Project

the justice theater
project

Learn more about our theater schedule, sponsorships,
subscriptions and summer camps at:

thejusticetheaterproject.org



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BLACK NATIVITY in CONCERT

[Show Details >>](#)


Carol Woods Retirement Community Presents
Written and Directed by Dr. Asabi (Stephanie Howard)
Music Direction by Ray Watkins
Choreography by Dr. Kristi Vincent Johnson and Toya Chinfflo

December 10, 2022

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr. Theater in the Museum Park, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh

FREE. Registration required.

“For unto us, a child is born...”

Join us for this soaring 45-minute outdoor gospel concert featuring nine soloists, West African/Contemporary dancers, and a live band.



The Best of Enemies

[Show Details >>](#)


by Osha Gray Davidson

February 10-26, 2023

Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

A true story of the unlikely relationship between two low-income community activists, Ann Atwater, an outspoken civil rights activist, and C.P. Ellis, a local Ku Klux Klan leader. The story takes place in Durham, North Carolina, during the turbulent 1960s and 70's when the Civil Rights Movement was at its peak. After having several public racially-charged confrontations and developing an intense disdain for each other, in the racially charged summer of 1971, Atwater and Ellis came together to co-chair a community summit on the desegregation of public schools in Durham, N.C. The ensuing debate and battle soon lead to surprising revelations forever changing both of their lives.

tiny beautiful things

[Show Details >>](#)


In partnership with Honest Pint Theatre

Adapted by Nia Vardalos, based on the book by Cheryl Strayed
Co-conceived by Marshall Heyman, Thomas Kail, and Nia Vardalos

April 13-23, 2023

Theatre Raleigh

A celebration of the simple beauty of being human, this funny, deeply touching, and uplifting play explores resilience based on the best-selling book by Cheryl Strayed and her journey as the beloved anonymous advice columnist for “Dear Sugar.” Over the years, thousands of people turned to “Sugar” for words of wisdom, compassion, and hope. Sugar looks to her past and draws on her life experiences to bring light, laughter, and humanity to others. Academy Award nominee Nia Vardalos (MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING) adapts Strayed's book into an enrapturing and uplifting play that is about reaching when you're stuck, recovering when you're broken, and finding the courage to ask the questions that are hardest to answer or have no answers to.

Contains strong language and adult content.

JTP 2022 / 23 SEASON

The Dead Man

Show Details ►►



By Sholem Asch
Translated By Caraid O'Brien
Directed by Jorie Slodki
May 17, 18 and 21, 2023
Raleigh-Cary Jewish Community Center
12804 Norwood Rd, Raleigh, NC 27613

Join us for three special presentations of a staged reading. In the wake of WWI, the Jewish residents of a destroyed shtetl come together to discuss how--or if--they should rebuild. From the playwright who wrote the Yiddish drama classic "God of Vengeance" comes a new translation of his 1922 work. Dealing with dislocation, madness, and death, all they have left is a powerful hope for a prosperous, new future. A timeless story of heartbreak and strength, and its relevance to today's global moment is striking. "The play focuses on a traumatized community trying to move forward," said O'Brien. "Together, they chip through the darkness by not shying away from their collective horror." Ages: 16+

Urinetown

Show Details ►►



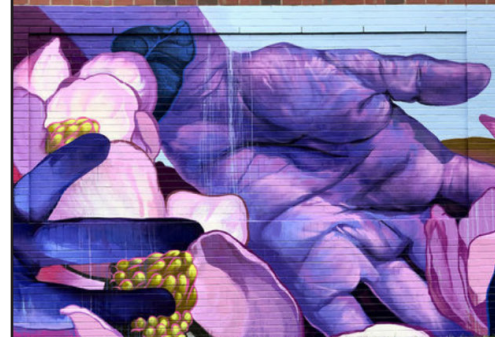
Written by Greg Kotis
Music by Mark Hollmann
Lyrics by Hollmann and Greg Kotis
June 9-25, 2023
Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

Winner of 3 Tony Awards, 3 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 2 Lucille Lortel Awards, and 2 Obie Awards, URINETOWN is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics, and musical theatre itself! Hilariously funny and touchingly honest, Urinetown provides a fresh perspective on one of America's most significant art forms.

The citizens must use public amenities regulated by a malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. If the poor don't obey the strict laws prohibiting free urination, they're sent to the dreaded "Urinetown." Come ready to laugh! Amid the people, a brave, young hero decides he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! As with all well-constructed comedies and satire, URINETOWN has a heart and a message. It invites you to look at your actions and question society's actions today but in a non-threatening manner. A brilliant satire modeled off the plays of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, URINETOWN is a wickedly funny, fast-paced, and surprisingly intelligent comedic romp. This great satire leaves no one safe from scrutiny as it surveys society's established norms and foundational institutions. Ages 13+



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Connecting People With the Arts

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission nurtures creativity and enriches our community by championing the arts in Raleigh:

- Partnering with local cultural organizations
- Supporting arts programming
- Advocating for arts investment
- Presenting art exhibitions, public art and special events

Vinculando al Pueblo con las Artes

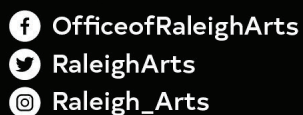
La Comisión de Artes de la Ciudad de Raleigh sustenta la creatividad y enriquece a nuestra comunidad, favoreciendo las artes en Raleigh por medio de:

- La asociación con organizaciones culturales locales
- El apoyo de la programación de las artes
- El fomento de la inversión en el arte
- La presentación de exposiciones artísticas, arte público y eventos especiales

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- The Justice Theater Project
- Marbles Kids Museum
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- The NC Chamber Music Institute
- NC Master Chorale
- NC Museum of History
- NC Opera
- NC State LIVE
- NC State University Theatre
- NC Symphony
- NC Theatre
- North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre
- Nuv Yug Cultural Organization
- Performance Edge
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- PineCone
- Raleigh Boychoir
- Raleigh Civic Symphony Association
- Raleigh Little Theatre
- The Raleigh Ringers
- Theatre in the Park
- Theatre Raleigh
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The Justice Theater Project and
Carol Woods Retirement Community presents

Black Nativity in Concert 2022

Direction and Original Script
Dr. Asabi (Stephanie Howard)

Music Direction
The Reverend Raymond S. Watson

Choreography
Toya Chinfloo, Kristi V. Johnson

Production Stage Manager
Kalimah Williams

Set Design/Master Carpenter
Jeffrey Nugent

Lighting Design
Cory Arnold

Costume Design
Lydia Houston

Sound Design
"B. B" Productions

Musicians
The Reverend Ray Watkins – Keyboard
Chucky Robinson- Organist
Thurman Woods - Bassist
Montrel Parker - Percussion

African Drummers
Ayinde Hurrey
Bashir Shakur

Singers
Karen Alston, Jada Barber, Kimberly Britt, Taufiki Lee, Tiffany Little,
Beverly Ann Love, Tyonda Love, Dottie Middleton, Carter Minor,
Marvin Outlaw, Haven Powell, Tamisha Waden

The Dancers
Lydia Banuelos, Rayven Day, Aisha S. Horton, Rondejia King, Frankie Lee,
Travyon Lovely, Destinee Mackey, Robert McCreary

Mary
Trin Taylor



Karen Alston (Singer) is a first-time participant in *Black Nativity in Concert*. As a Brooklyn, New York native, she has spent much of her life in Durham, NC. Upon graduation from Durham High School, Karen attended Howard University where she was a member of Howard's famed Gospel Choir. Upon returning to Durham, Karen began a career of public service with the City of Durham that spanned 29 years. Since retiring, she remains quite busy as Minister of Music for St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Durham and Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Butner, NC. She is married to Kenneth Alston and they are parents of two children and three grandchildren.



Asabi (Stephanie Howard) (Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at NC Central University where she serves as Chair. She recently received the Pioneer Award in Theatre at The Day of Dunham Celebration. She has received numerous Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival directing awards and NCCU College of Liberal Arts Awards in Outstanding Teaching, Scholarship, and Playwriting. A graduate of North Carolina A&T State and Wake Forest University, Asabi earned her PhD at Regent University in Communication Arts. As a performer, director, playwright and stage manager, Asabi aspires to immerse herself in nearly every aspect of theater. She has directed many productions and authored such shows as *God Spoke My Name: Maya Angelou; Reaching for God with Dirty Hands and Tainted Blood; and Distorted Beauty*. Among many stage credits, she has performed in *Four Queens No Trumps* and *Intimate Apparel*. On the International scene, she co-directed *Soul Rhythm; Sistah's Voices* at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa and *The Mis-Education of Hip Hop* in Florence, Italy. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Jada Pearl Barber (Singer) hails from Wilson, North Carolina. She is the baby of five and a pastor's kid. She first enjoyed singing with her siblings for her father at his church. Jada performed in many productions in school, most memorably portraying the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*. She attended North Carolina Central University majoring in Music with a concentration in Performance. Jada travels as a performing artist throughout the East coast and will be releasing original music soon. Her proudest achievement is her seven-year-old Tracy Wilson Barber.



Lydia Banuelos (Dancer) is a 22-year-old native of North Carolina. She is a spring '22 college graduate from North Carolina Central University. Graduating magna cum laude with a B.A in theater/ concentration in dance education k-12. Lydia has 17 years of dance experience with a competitive and concert dance background. When she is not performing, she is the dance director at a local school and a competitive gymnastics coach.



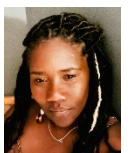
Kimberly Britt (Singer) was born in Williamston NC. She has been singing since the age of three and has touched the hearts and lives of many singing at local churches and events. Dubbed "The soulful singer with an old soul", her resume spans from NC to Los Angeles. She has traveled, toured, and shared the stage with National Gospel and R&B artists such as John P Kee, David Hollister, Keith Sweat, Shirley Caesar, and sang on the hit TV series GREENLEAF. In addition, she has shared the stage opening for Faith Evans, Anthony Brown, and Deitrick Haddon. Kim Britt is currently Worship Leader and Vocal Instructor at Union Baptist Church DURHAM, NC. An anointed psalmist, she has been commissioned to exemplify her gifts and talents to the world. She is ministry-driven and blessed to be able to encourage others through song and her testimony. She is indeed God's child and vessel.



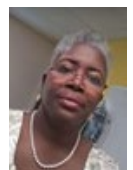
Toya J. Chinfloo (Co-Choreographer) M.Ed, Choreographer, Dance Director at Hillside High School, currently serves on the faculty of North Carolina Central University as an Adjunct Professor in the Theater Department. For over twenty years, Toya J. Chinfloo has been shaping and impacting the lives of children of all ages as a Dance Educator. This New Jersey native received training from renowned teachers and performed with legendary artists in dance theater. During her BFA experiences at SUNY Purchase and Montclair State University, Toya trained in Horton, Graham, Cunningham, Limon, Jazz, West African, and classical ballet. Ms. Chinfloo's recent choreographic works have been performed for African American Cultural Festival's televised 2020 *Annual Kwanzaa Celebration*; 2019-21 Justice Theater Project's *Black Nativity*; American Dance Festival's 2020 *Creative Parade*; Hillside High School's *Matilda the Musical* 2022, *Stargaze 25: Memories & New Beginnings* 2022, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* 2022; *The Color Purple* 2018 with Valencia Lipscomb; "My Body" music video with Grammy-nominated recording artists Pierce Freelon and Rissi Palmer; and True Dream Productions and Walltown Children's Theater's, *Durham Nutcracker*. Ms. Chinfloo is a Year Three candidate for Dunham Technique Teaching Certification, under the direction of Jan Blunt and Patricia Wilson Co-Directors of IDTC as well as lead Dunham instructor at Hayti Heritage Center's Summer Arts Initiative/ Saturday Youth Arts Enrichment Program under the direction of Carol Lloyd. Toya Chinfloo continues to enjoy performing with Chinfloo Cultural Arts Dance Ensemble and resides in Durham, NC with her loving husband, Oral, and family.



Rayven Day (Dancer) an Atlanta, Georgia native, started dancing when he was 5 years old. Currently pursuing a degree in psychology with a minor in dance at North Carolina Central University, he strives to lead and assist his community, especially as a proud member of the Gamma Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. He has training and experience in several dance forms, including Jazz, Ballet, African, Contemporary, and more! His performances with Giwayen Mata and The Atlanta Ballet rank among his career high points the majority of the time. He currently spends time honing his choreography talents and studying the art of dance.

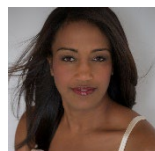


Aisha S. Horton (Dancer) is a native of Queens, NY. Aisha's love of Dance and training began at the age of 4. She started teaching dance at the age of 16. She has danced with several companies in NY and continues to dance here in NC. Aisha is an award winning choreographer in tap, jazz, modern, lyrical and West African Dance. Aisha is the proud Co-owner and Artistic Director of Precise Movement School of the Arts.



Lydia Henry Houston, (Costumer, Wardrobe) is returning for her 2nd year of The Justice Theater Project's *Black Nativity In Concert*. She is an avid Sewist with more than 40 years sewing and Costuming experience. Graduating with a degree in Fashion from Bauder College in 2014, Lydia earned The Craftsmanship Award in the Annual Bauder Black Tie Fashion Show. She has designed and sewn costumes for The African American Dance Ensemble, led by Baba Chuck Davis; Collage Dance Company; Suah African Dance Theatre; and several choreographers. She specializes in creating an awesome fitting garment. Lydia was wardrobe assistant with Cirque du Soleil's *Amaluna* in Atlanta, GA and Miami, FL. She has been a Movie Wardrobe Assistant for a DeVan Clan Production in GA and a True Dreams Production in NC. She currently operates ExtremelyLydia Sewing Company. Her motto is "You Design It, I'll Make It".

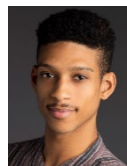
Ayinde Hurrey (African Drummer) was born in Manhattan, New York, and raised in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He began his career on the stage as a percussionist with The Cultural Movement, Inc., a company founded by his father, Raymond "Nilaja" Hurrey, the original percussionist for The Last Poets. Ayinde's background in African dance and percussion has provided him with the opportunity to perform as a guest artist with various dance companies all over the country and abroad. Hurrey studied at North Carolina Central University in Durham, (Bachelor of Arts in Theatre) and pursued his graduate training at the University of Florida in Gainesville, (M.F.A. in Acting). Ayinde's most accomplished works have been writing and directing his solo show, *Nappy Journeys*, (main stage selection 2009 National Black Theatre Festival), working as an instructor at Harlem School of the Arts in NYC, working as a season regular with the Classical Theatre of Harlem, and becoming a new addition to the Board of Directors for Artists United. As an educator, Ayinde has trained elementary to university level students. Ayinde has worked full-time in public school districts in Oklahoma City, New York, North Carolina, and Florida. Now residing in North Carolina, Ayinde continues to spread his theatrical energy to audiences both near and far through the efforts of Hurrey-UP Consulting & Performing Arts, which aims to deliver quality residencies and workshops in acting, West African dance and drumming, play productions, and arts consulting. The company maintains a particular focus on cultural awareness, diversity, and education.



Kristi Vincent Johnson (Choreographer) a Louisiana native, is a performer, educator, choreographer, filmmaker, and scholar. She holds an MFA in Modern Dance from Texas Christian University and a Doctorate of Education in Kinesiology from UNC Greensboro. Her creative work for both stage and film has been featured in national and international festivals such as the NC Dance Festival, the San Francisco Dance Film Festival, the Longleaf Film Festival and Black Truth Film Festival. Currently, Kristi is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Dance at North Carolina Central University where she also serves as the Artistic Director for the Repertory Dance Company and the NCCU Flight Dance Team.



Rondejia King (Dancer) is a K-12 Licensed Dance Educator from Atlanta, GA. Rondejia's dance journey begins at age 8 within a number of dance studios. In these local Atlanta dance studios, she was able to train in various dance styles and prepare to dance collegiately. Collegiately, Rondejia was able to audition into the Dance program and company at North Carolina A&T State University. While studying, she gained professional and international performance experience. In 2018, Rondejia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. Rondejia is currently inspiring and cultivating the minds of students at Neal Middle School in Durham, NC. She strives to push her versatility and passion into her students as she aims to consistently perform in the community herself.



Frankie Lee III (Dancer) was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, received his BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts & continued training at American Dance Festival, Springboard Danse Montreal, Shen Wei Dance Arts, The Merce Cunningham Trust, The Dance Company Experience & Alonzo King LINES Dance Center, to name a few. He has danced with Zaccho Dance Theater, Oakland Ballet, dawsondancesf, Helen Simoneau Danse, Antonio Brown Dance, Gaspard & Dancers, Zest Collective, The Dallas Conservatory & Dallas Black Dance Theatre to name a few. He is the Founder & Artistic Director of Flee Dance & is a 2-time Isadora Duncan Award nominee, a Webby Award Winner & the 2022 Artist of Excellence Prism Award winner. Frankie is excited & grateful to be a part of this project.



Taufiki Lee (Singer) is always giving glory and thanks to God. Taufiki has worked with various local theater companies which include The Justice Theater Project, TYTTA, Agape Theater, MOJOAA, WTF and Li V Mahob. His most recent accomplishments were with The Justice Theater Project in *Man of La Mancha* this past spring and also *All The Way* this fall. Taufiki is super excited to be working another year with the cast and crew to bring to you *Black Nativity In Concert*. It is our hope that you take away something meaningful during this most wonderful time of the year. May The Lord make His face shine upon you.

Tiffany Little (Singer) is a Durham, NC native. She attended North Carolina Central University, majoring in Social Work, with a Psychology Minor. Tiffany feels that helping people and singing is her life's calling. Singing has been a part of her life since Tiffany was born, and her family has a rich history full of Gospel quartet singers including her grandfather, who still hosts singing programs along with her mother and aunts who have their own singing groups. Tiffany has been blessed by this opportunity to be a part of *Black Nativity in Concert* and to have met such amazingly kind people while working on this project. This experience has been such a blessing. Already looking forward to next year's show!



Beverly Ann Love (Singer) is thrilled to be a first time participant in The Justice Theater Project's *Black Nativity in Concert*. A lifelong Durham resident, Beverly graduated from Durham High , now Durham School of the Arts and attended UNC-Chapel Hill. Beverly retired with 31 years in the communications and sales fields. She is the proud mother of a beautiful, intelligent UNCP graduate, daughter Mya. She loves to cook and participate in choirs whenever possible because she loves making a joyful noise unto the Lord.



Tyonda Love (Singer) is from Bailey N.C. Her music career started at the age of 6 with a sibling gospel group with their father, touring, recording, and performing at special events. They became the first youngest gospel sibling group on the East Coast. Tyonda became a wife to Thomas Love Jr., and they started their family of 5 kids in Durham N.C. She is a member of One Love Christian Church (family church) in Durham N.C where her pastor is John C Fitzpatrick and first lady Paulin Fitzpatrick. During her transition she didn't realize that God was introducing her to a new sound called Praise and Worship as a solo artist. Along this new journey she became the praise and worship leader of One Love Christian Church, earned a bachelor's degree in Theology, and started her own T-shirt and craft business named Millennium Designs. Since then, God has given her the opportunity to do worship outside of the church's four walls. From there she has had the privilege to do professional background vocals for local and professional recording artists. She has reached a point of her life where God is still working and molding her in ministry. This is only the beginning of the amazing things that God is doing in her life.



Travyon Lovely (Dancer) is a 19-year-old senior psychology major and dance minor at North Carolina Central University. He was always a social dancer and loved dancing with family and friends from a very young age. At the age of 7, he started lyrical dancing and mime ministry for his church. He did this for 5 years. At 14, he started dancing with Sassy of Durham dance team, where he trained in hip-hop and modern dance for 3 years. As a senior year of high school, he started taking dance classes at North Carolina Central University, then declared his minor in the dance program. Travyon joined the Repertory Dance Company at NCCU in 2021 and has been a member since then.



Destinee Mackey (Dancer) is a senior at North Carolina Central University with a in English Composition and Literature, and a minor in Dance. She is a member of the NCCU Repertory Dance Company. A Raleigh native, she and has been dancing since the age of 4. After graduation she hopes to continue her pursuit in dance performance and dance teaching, travel and take dance classes around the world, and use these new experiences to inspire her writing. Destinee one day hopes to walk in similar foot steps as her dance teacher, Dr. Kristi Vincent Johnson and become a teacher for dance in higher education.



Robert McCreary (Dancer) is a freshman at North Carolina Central University hailing from Columbia, South Carolina. He has been performing since 5th grade getting his start at Columbia Children's Theatre. Robert would like to thank Dr. Asabi and Professor Chinfloo for this opportunity, and the NCCU Theatre Department as a whole.



Dottie Middleton (Singer) is a 27-year-old from a small town in the south. Known for her power vocals and songwriting skills. Dottie is a producer, instrumentalist, and is also known for her background vocal arrangements. She was a contestant for Season 3 of *American Idol* and has opened up for amazing artists such as Chrisette Michele, Maxell, Common, and Anthony Hamilton to name a few. As an adolescent she knew that she could heal the world through music, and still stands by that to this current day.



Carter Minor (Singer) is a singer, song writer, musician, and Pastor from Chapel Hill, NC. He recently retired after twenty years as Band Director and Music Instructor at Cary Christian School in Cary, NC. He currently serves the Lord as Interim Pastor at Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, NC. He is known for his vocal versatility, singing Gospel, Blues, Jazz, Classical, and Pop styles. He is also highly acclaimed as an excellent harmonica player. Carter has been performing for well over sixty years and can be seen and heard locally at HGMBBC as well as with Mahalo Jazz, Armand Lenchek & Bluesology, and Carrie Marshall.



Marvin Outlaw (Singer) a Bertie County native, currently lives in Durham North Carolina with his wife Jordan and his son and daughter Noah and Claire. Since childhood, Marvin has found an outlet in singing and music.



Haven Powell (Singer) has a deep passion for impacting her local community and ministering to Women! She loves to sing and has been performing in the Langston Hughes rendition of *Black Nativity* as a soloist for the past four years! A member of the Junior League since 2012, she is an active member of the Raleigh League for the past five years and currently serves as the Nominating Co-Chair. Also, she currently serves as a Programs Committee Member and volunteer for StepUp Ministry, a nonprofit that has been supporting our community in Raleigh for 32 years. Learn more at <https://www.stepupministry.org>. She is originally from Garner, NC, and works as the Program Coordinator for the NCCU Integrated Biosciences Sciences Ph.D. Program. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc and serves as a board member of The Justice Theater Project. Haven's favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6.

Bashir Shakur (African Drummer) is a percussionist, composer, performer, educator, and recording artist whose unique blend of improvisational, and traditional percussion can be found on his latest release entitled “Visible,” with acclaimed Zimbabwean dancer Nora Chipoumare. In addition to his work with Nora, Bashir has recorded, performed, and/or toured with an array of diverse artists which include Chuck Davis, Camille Yarbrough (foremother of Rap), DJ Grandmaster Flash, Waley Reyes Jr. (drummer for Santana), The Sunday Special Band, The North Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, Bessie award winner Jawole Jo Zollar and Reggae superstar Freddie McGregor. One of Bashir's latest creations is his youth leadership program *Buckets and Beats*. Created in 2014 with funding from the Alvin Ailey Arts in Education program. Shakur developed a cost-effective, empowering, and fun 14-week percussion study with 3rd and 5th graders, using just two drumsticks and a bucket. He also plays with his acoustic Jazz, World, and Urban Music band “B-Shak Rhythm and Soul.” This quartet of adventurous musicians was formed in 2012 and has been described as Be-bop Jazz, meets Afro-Beat, meets trance-inducing Urban Music. Shakur has been an artist-in-residence and or faculty member at many institutions which include The Brooklyn Music School, New York University, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, American Dance Festival, Williams College and is currently on staff at Elon University. Mr. Shakur would like to thank Allah for all his many gifts and blessings.



Trin Taylor (Mary) a Baltimore native, and junior Theater Performance major at North Carolina Central Univ. This is her second year performing as Mary in *Black Nativity in Concert*. She's also performed in *One Monkey Don't Stop No Show* as Mozelle and *A Long Time Since Yesterday* as Babbs Wilkerson. Most recently, she played Charlaine in the musical *Aint Misbehavin*. Coming up, she will be in the 2023 production of *On Striver's Row* at NCCU. Trin thanks her family and friends for their endless support.



Tamisha Waden (Singer) is an NC native singer, songwriter, and recording artist affiliated with the Grammy-nominated group, *The Foreign Exchange*. Her love affair with music began at an early age, growing up with and around the influences of Gospel music. As a preacher's daughter, this sultry songstress began crooning the sounds of inspiration at six. Tamisha furthered her love and knowledge at North Carolina Central University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies. She shared the stage with Mavis Staples to Tom Browne, Roy Ayers, Marion Meadows, Bob Baldwin, Tony Terry, Melba Moore, Donnie, Comedian Sinbad, the Foreign Exchange and the Black Pumas. Tamisha's soulful vocals appear on multiple works with the duo, including their latest studio effort *Tales from the Land of Milk and Honey*. She has recorded with and shared the stage with a number of music artists making guest appearances on NBC's Late Night With Seth Meyers show and CBS This Morning with Merge Records recording artist HissGoldenMessenger. Her latest single, *Good for Me* is available on all digital media platforms.



Cory Arnold (Lighting Designer) has a B.A. in Music Business from Millikin University. Recent Lighting Design credits include *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Black Nativity in Concert*, *Enemy of the People*, *Man of La Mancha* (The Justice Theater Project), *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* (Theater in the Park), *SOFAR Sounds Raleigh/Durham*. Cory often uses his skills as an electrician at DPAC, Duke Energy Center, PNC and other regional venues. He is excited to be part of this production and thanks those who continue to support him in his pursuit of the arts.



Jerry Sipp (Producing Artistic Director) Before becoming our A.D, Jerry was seen on our stage as Fagin in *Oliver!* and Mitch Album in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. He most recently played Lyndon Johnson in JTP's hit production of *All The Way*. He has acted in over 110 plays spanning 38 U.S. states and Scotland. He has directed and produced well over 100 shows and is an award-winning playwright, having seen 10 of his original scripts produced. Jerry also served as Producing Artistic Director for Temple Theatre, The Playhouse Theatre, and Granville Little Theatre and co-founded Trio Productions, a professional touring company.



Jeffrey Nugent (Set Designer/Master Carpenter) has been active with Triangle theater groups for more than 20 years as an actor, designer, props wrangler, builder, ninja, etc. He is excited to collaborate with the amazing cast, crew, and production team in telling this wonderful story. Thanks to them for sharing their gifts and to YOU for supporting our passion. Enjoy the show!



Kalimah Williams (Stage Manager) is a Junior at North Carolina Central University. She has portrayed Alisa in *Long Time Since Yesterday*, Ms. Caldwell in *One Monkey Don't Stop No Show* and Pamela in *Kites*. She has previously worked in the role of Stage Manager for *House of George* during the National Black Theatre Festival.



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Special Thanks

Peg Arcari, Debbie DeRosa, Doug Long, Debra Russell, Matt Gore, Beth Gargan, Claudia Harris, Joye Goff, Bettie Murchison, Peggy Tatum, Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Saint David's School, Wake County Health and Human Services, Poplar Springs Christian Church, Mount Cavalry United Church of Christ, North Carolina Central University Theatre Department



The Reverend Raymond S. Watkins (Music Director) is a native of Hillsborough, North Carolina and the Sr. Pastor of Mount Calvary United Church of Christ, in Durham, North Carolina. Since his arrival, through his dynamic leadership, spiritual teaching, biblical preaching, and musical abilities, Reverend Watkins has helped the church transition into a cutting edge 21st century ministry. This is evident as the church celebrates time honored traditions while employing new ministry methods and technology. The church is reaping a harvest of renewed visibility in the community through the outreach and evangelistic activities of the ministries under Watkins' leadership. Mount Calvary United Church Of Christ is, "On the move for God." Reverend Watkins has helped to establish a contemporary worship service for the church, Music, Media, and Technology ministries. In addition to full time administration, Reverend Watkins maintains an active preaching schedule throughout Durham and surrounding area churches, facilitating workshops, preaching revivals and other services throughout the entire region. Reverend Watkins also serves with other Pastors in the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance who help facilitate worship services that create outreach for the community. Reverend Watkins is a graduate of Elon University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. Although most of his ministerial career was leading and shepherding music ministries, God redirected his passions towards Pastoral ministry. Upon acknowledging his call, Reverend Watkins pursued and received a Master of Divinity degree from Apex School Of Theology, in Durham, North Carolina. Following his graduation, he preached his Initial Sermon, received his license and was subsequently ordained into the Gospel Ministry by the UBC Ordination Council of The East Cedar Grove Association. Reverend Watkins is well known throughout the community. He has always exemplified a strong passion and commitment in supporting the community, actively participating in various outreach ministries, visiting the sick and shut-in at home as well as Senior and Assisted Living centers, providing support during times of surgery and hospitalization, providing spiritual counsel based upon scripture for individual and married couples, and providing numerous families with support and assistance during their time of bereavement. Through worship, ministry and a commitment to servant leadership, Reverend Watkins strives to proclaim the Good News of God's love, to encourage others in their Christian walk, to lead them into praise and worship of Him, and to nurture their spiritual development in ministry. Finally, Reverend Watkins is a family man. He is married to Lakecia D. R. Watkins and the proud father of two daughters, Brittany and Rhea.

The Music

1. "The Presence of the Lord is Here" by Byron Cage, sung by Carter Minor
2. "Already Here" by Brian Courtney Wilson, sung by Marvin Outlaw
3. "No Room" Original arrangement by Ray Watkins, sung by Choir
4. "Oh Holy Night" by Adolphe Charles Adam, sung by Taufiki Lee.
"Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him" original arrangement by Ray Watkins
5. "Mary Did You Know" by Lowry, Greene and English, sung by Tyonda Love, Haven Powell, Tiffany Little
6. "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" African American Spiritual
7. "Joy to the World" Written by George Frideric Handel, sung by Jadah Barber
8. "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Traditional African-American Spiritual, original arrangement by Ray Watkins, sung by Kimberly Britt
9. "Jesus Oh What a Wonderful Child" Traditional African American Hymn, sung by Tamisha Waden, Tiffany Little. Original arrangement by Ray Watkins
10. Medley:
"Call Him Up" by LaVelle Lacy
"Are You Ready for the Coming of the Lord"
"Do Not Pass Me By" By Fanny Crosby
"I Put it all in His Hands" by Varn Michael McKay
"Can't Stop Praising His Name" by Keith Pringle
11. "Oh Lord How Excellent" by Brenda Joyce Moore, sung by Karen Alston
12. "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" written Mervyn Warren, (*Sister Act II* version), sung by Kimberly Britt, Marvin Outlaw, Tamisha Waden

The "Black Nativity in Concert, 2022" singers:

**Karen Alston, Jadah Barber, Kimberly Britt, Taufiki Lee, Tiffany Little,
Beverly Ann Love, Tyonda Love, Dottie Middleton, Carter Minor,
Marvin Outlaw, Haven Powell, Tamisha Waden**