

BY
EUBIE BLAKE,
ANDY RAZAF,

EUBIE!

NOBLE SISSLE,
AND
JULIANNE BOYD



DIRECTED BY RON HIMES

MAY



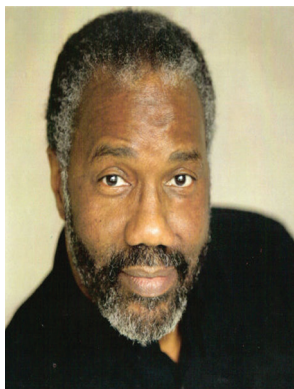
THE BLACK REP

EDISON THEATRE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



03-21

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Dear Friend:

I am so glad you are here to celebrate the final production of our 46th Season.

We couldn't think of a better way to end this season than by celebrating one of the most important figures of the American Musical Theatre-Mr. Eubie Blake. His production of *Shuffle Along*, in 1921 forever changed the landscape of Broadway.

"For nearly two years it was always packed. It gave the proper push - a pre-Charleston kick to the vogue that spread to books, African sculpture, music, and dancing."

-Langston Hughes

This season we have looked at the world in ways that have provoked, informed, inspired and sometimes offended!

And we are fortunate tonight to have a company of artists who lead us in celebrating a joyous, scintillating musical experience. In 1999 we were fortunate to have Mr. Neal Tate, the original Broadway orchestrator of *EUBIE!* as our musical director and this year we are fortunate to have Mr. Joe Dreyer as our musical director for this production.

So sit back and enjoy this high stepping production and come back again & again!

Ron Himes

Ron Himes

EUBIE!

Music By Eubie Blake
Directed by Ron Himes**

Musical Director
Joe Dreyer

Choreographers
Vivian Watt
Heather Beal

Tap Choreographer
Robert Crenshaw

Scenic Design
Tim Jones

Lighting Design
Jasmine Williams

Costume Design
Marc W. Vital II

Sound Design
Justin Schmitz

Stage Manager
Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins*

Assistant Stage Manager
Zahria Moore*

MAY 3 - 21, 2023
EDISON THEATRE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Conceived and originally directed on Broadway by Julianne Boyd
Produced on Broadway by Ashton Springer

EUBIE

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

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

*Members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

** SDC, The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. an independent national labor union *Members of Actor's Equity Association, the

**This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.
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and communities, visit www.arts.gov.**

COMPOSER



JAMES (EUBIE) BLAKE (1887 -1983), was an American pianist and composer of ragtime, jazz, and popular music. In 1921, he and his long-time collaborator Noble Sissle wrote *Shuffle Along*, one of the first Broadway musicals written and directed by African Americans.[1] Blake's compositions included such hits as "Bandana Days", "Charleston Rag", "Love Will Find a Way", "Memories of You" and "I'm Just Wild About Harry". The 1978 Broadway musical *Eubie!* showcased his works; in 1981, President Ronald Reagan awarded Blake the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Blake was raised by parents who were formerly enslaved, and he was involved with music from a very young age. When he was four or five he began to play a pump organ at home. As a teenager he played piano in brothels and saloons, and by his mid-20s he had secured steady engagements at the Goldfield Hotel in Baltimore as well as at several clubs in Atlantic City. In 1915 Blake teamed up with the singer

and lyricist Noble Sissle, and the duo began composing songs. Their career was given a great boost when one of their songs, "It's All Your Fault," was featured in the performances of the popular vaudeville and nightclub singer Sophie Tucker. In 1916 Sissle introduced Blake to New York bandleader James Reese Europe, known not only for having established the Clef Club, an organization that provided hundreds of Black musicians with well-paying jobs playing for New York's white high-society clientele, but also for supplying music for such entertainers as the ballroom- and popular-dance duo Vernon and Irene Castle. Europe subsequently employed Blake as an assistant conductor and composer. During World War I (1914–18), Europe formed and led the band of the 369th Infantry Division ("Harlem Hellfighters"), which was the first African American infantry unit to serve in the war. Blake, however, did not perform in the band; although he informally claimed that he was too old to serve in the military, he officially filed for exemption on the grounds that his mother and his wife were dependent on him alone for support. Consequently, Blake stayed stateside and ran Europe's musical business operations.

After the war (and after Europe's death in 1919), Sissle and Blake went into vaudeville, becoming the first African American musical act to perform professionally neither wearing blackface-minstrelsy makeup nor using an exaggerated dialect. The duo collaborated with writer-performers Flournoy Miller and Aubrey Lyles to produce *Shuffle Along*, the first all-Black Broadway show to play for full Broadway prices. The musical opened on May 23, 1921, and became a groundbreaking long-running production, closing after some 500 performances. *Shuffle Along* yielded Sissle and Blake's best-known song, "I'm Just Wild About Harry," as well as the romantic ballad "Love Will Find a Way," the performance of which was revolutionary in that it allowed African Americans to express feelings of love on the American stage in a context other than that of caricature. Ultimately, *Shuffle Along* made a major contribution to the Harlem Renaissance, most significantly by opening the way for a number of other Black shows that laid a foundation for the "Jazz Age" of the 1920s.

Part of Sissle and Blake's early act was recorded for posterity in pioneering sound films produced by Lee De Forest in 1923, making them among the first African American acts to appear in talking pictures. Blake subsequently continued to write music with Sissle and several other lyricists for a number of shows. His efforts culminated in Lew Leslie's *Blackbirds* of 1930, featuring the classic melody "Memories of You" (with lyrics by Andy Razaf), which became a hit for many popular performers (including clarinetist and bandleader Benny Goodman) and found a place in the so-called Great American Songbook of popular-music standards.

Until his death, Blake maintained supercelebrity status. He appeared on major TV variety programs such as Johnny Carson's *The Tonight Show*, where he became somewhat of a regular, and *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*. *EUBIE!*, a hit Broadway show in 1978–79, showcased the octogenarian's music. In 1981 Blake was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

The Black Rep graciously acknowledges annual support for its mainstage and educational programs from:

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This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Special thanks to the Siteman Family for their support. Support for our Education and Community Programs has been provided by: Americorps, Bellwether Foundation, Clay Co., Edward Jones, Jordan Foundation, Roblee Foundation, Saigh Foundation, the St. Louis Racial Healing & Justice Fund, Tilles Foundation and Trio Foundation. Additional support this season has come from the Black Communities Investment Initiative of the St. Louis Community Foundation and Enterprise Holdings Foundation.

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* Deceased

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CAST AND PRODUCTION STAFF

CAST

Coda Boyce
DeAnté Bryant
*Robert Crenshaw**
Serdalyer Darden
Evann De-Bose
Samantha Madison
Venezia Manuel
Carvas Pickens
*Tamara PiLar**
Taijah Silas (Understudy)
*J'Kobe Wallace**

MUSICIANS

Joe Dreyer Piano
Chris Tomlin Tuba
Bernard Long Drums
Anthony Wiggins Trumpet
Harvey Lockhart Saxophone

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Ron Himes**
Musical Director Joe Dreyer
Choreographer Heather Beal
Choreographer Vivian Watt
Tap Choreographer Robert Crenshaw
Scenic Design Tim Jones
Lighting Design Jasmine Williams
Sound Design Justin Schmitz
Costume Design Marc W, Vital II
Stage Manager Tracy D. Holliway-Wiggins*
Assistant Stage Manager Zahria Moore*
Costume Shop Supervisor Ellen Minch
Scenic Artist RobVan Dillen
Carpenters Christian Kitchens
Christian LeNoir

The Black Rep wishes to extend a special thank you to John Nickel, Switch, Dello Thedford, Rodgers Townsend and Tracy Long, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and The Edison Staff

*Members of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Hands of the United States.

THE CAST



CODA BOYCE (she/her), originally from Detroit, MI. Her recent acting credits include *The Light*, *The African Company Presents Richard III* (The Black Rep), understudying roles at Theatre Squared including the world premiere of *Flex*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, and *The Mountaintop*. As well as *A Christmas Carol* at The Dallas Theater Center. She received her B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University. Coda is extremely excited to join The Black Rep for the first time this fall. She is blessed for this opportunity and would like to thank her family for always encouraging her talents.



DEANTÉ BRYANT (he/him), based in St. Louis, MO is thrilled to be making his debut at The Black Rep! Graduating in May with a BFA in Musical Theatre, he is excited to pursue his artistic dreams. His professional credits include *A Christmas Carol* at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (2021 & 2022) and *A Dickens of a Christmas* Fox Theatre Tour! at the Fabulous Fox Theatre. DeAnté also enjoys music and cabaret! He has performed at the Blue Strawberry *Songs from Theatre School* as well as the Sheldon Concert Hall, *Let's Make An Album*. Above all things, DeAnté is a man of God and thanks his Heavenly Father for the strength. You can follow his journey on Instagram @dangit_te.



ROBERT CRENSHAW is a St. Louis native who's excited to work with The Black Rep once again! His Black Rep credits include, *Don't Bother Me*, *I Can't Cope*, *Spell #7*, and *Ain't Misbehavin'*. He toured internationally for 3 years with The Phil Woodmore Singers in a production called *Antigone in Ferguson*. He also performed in *Last Stop on Market Street* with Metro Theatre Company. Robert was the featured artist for the St. Louis Art Museums 2022 MLK Celebration Joy as an Act of Resistance and then he portrayed Ed Smith in Big Muddy's recital. Robert is a dance instructor at Sumner High School, and a hip hop teaching artist at COCA. He's also a MC (Host) with Utopia Entertainment where he is known to keep the weddings, mitzvahs, and special events animated and exciting! He choreographed *Little Shop of Horrors* for Kirkwood Theatre Guild, and was the Youth Hip Hop Choreographer for A Christmas Carol with The Rep. Lastly, after the CVPA tragedy

last October, Robert produced and performed in The CVPA Relief Showcase. Shortly after that he played Percy Green in the new play called *Action by Action* Art Collaborative.



SERDALYER DARDEN, is excited to make his Black Rep debut. He graduated from Northwestern State University. He has worked in live entertainment at various theme parks. He is grateful to his family for their continuous support of his dreams, and he wants to continue to make them proud.



EVANN DE-BOSE, is a native of St. Louis. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She is also a former Acting Intern of The Black Rep. Evann is an actress, vocalist, teaching artist, and allergy-friendly baker. You can purchase her sweet treats at The Sweet Evannlution. A few of her theater credits include *Reya* in *The Gringo*; a new musical *Denitra* in *Lines in the Dust*, *Gail* in *Akeelah and the Bee*, *Glinda* in *The Wiz*, *Singing Mary* in *Black Nativity*, *Marta* in *Company*, and *Lady in Orange* in *For Colored Girls*. Evann not only enjoys performing, but also teaching her craft. She is an early childhood teacher and culinary teacher at Center of Creative Arts (COCA). Evann would like to thank God for her gifts and her family for their continual support. Keep up with her performances and projects at evannlution.com



SAMANTHA MADISON is thrilled to be back at The Black Rep after last being seen in *Do I Move You?* Favorite Black Rep credits include *Hairspray*, *Purlie!*, *Black Nativity*, *Once on This Island*, and *Dreamgirls* in *Concert*. Samantha attended Webster University and studied dance with an emphasis in ballet and has since performed in productions for Theater of War (US & Greece), Phil Woodmore Singers, InnerVision Dance Theater, because why not? theater, Fly North Music, Gitana Productions, Kode Redd, and the MUNY. Samantha currently is a company member of Amara Arts, a founding member of Seventh Floor Dance Theater and the creative director & choreographer of the Tina Turner Tribute with Seviin Li. She has also conducted workshops both locally & regionally at the Saint Louis International Salsa Congress as well as the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. Samantha has also worked with St. Alphonsus' LLM dance ministry as a guest choreographer. Samantha has also been working for Better Family

Life since 2012, she is also an artistic director of K.Y.P.E. (Kuumba Youth Performance Ensemble) and associate director of arts in dance & theater.



VENEZIA MANUEL, is a native of East Saint Louis, Illinois and is a graduate of The University of Iowa where she received her BFA in Dance. She had the opportunity to tour with the University of Iowa Dance Company. She is working to obtain her Katherine Dunham Certification. She is also currently a model, teacher, and choreographer where she continues to travel to pursue her dreams. Venezia studied in Canada and Los Angeles which strengthened her technique. She also performed with Afriky Lo Lo, Inner Vision dance companies, East St. Louis Center for the performing Arts and was featured in newspapers, magazine, and billboard for her dance talents. She also had the opportunity to perform with the late entertainer Stephen Boss "Twitch" in a Flash Mob. Venezia first season with The Black Rep was in the production of *Crossin' Over*. Venezia is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated where she is committed to the service they provide to the community. Venezia continues to strive for excellence and

works hard to achieve all her goals. Venezia always wants to thank God, her family, and friends for their support.



CARVAS DELANO PICKENS, is a native of St. Louis, MO. He currently resides in Las Vegas, NV. He's estatic to be back home in front of his family and friends where it all started for him. Last seen in *Guys & Dolls* as Big Julie (Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Sarasota, FL). He's also been featured in Broadway World and other news outlets for his acting and for his role as Judas/John The Baptist in "*Something Like Godspell*". He's studied theater since 6th Grade and is an Alum of Central VPA and Southeast Missouri State University. You may have seen him in St.Louis Productions of JPEK's "*Real Life*" as TEZ/Raheem/Detective 2/Pookie, *OF His & Her's*, *Tangled* or *Voices Sounds of America*. Some of his Theatrical Credits include *The Wiz*, *Tangled*, *Dreamgirls*, *As You Like It*, *Music Man* and *High School Musical*. He would like to leave you with

these encouraging words “Life is about Place and Position; GOD will always position you to be in the right place to be successful”



TAMARA PILAR, is an NYC based actor, director and playwright from Detroit, MI. Acting credits include Off-Broadway: *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *The Odyssey w/Shakespeare in the Park* (The Public Theater, NYC) Regional: *Be Here Now* (North Carolina Stage Company) *Fairview*, *Asking Strangers The Meaning Of Life* (Detroit Repertory Theatre) *Hairspray* (North Shore Music Theatre) *Birthday Club*, *Once On This Island*, *Christmas Carol* (Meadow Brook Theatre) Other credits: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crane School of Music) *Dreamgirls* (Gallery Players), *Yerma* (Detroit Opera) TV: “LWT w/John Oliver” (HBO). *Training: American Musical* and *Dramatic Academy* (NY). PiLar is a proud member of Actors Equity, BTN and ASCAP. She is also a singer-songwriter with music on all streaming platforms. Thanks to God, Mommy, Daddy, Troy, and her iconic friends! Follow her artistic journey on Instagram. IG: @ pilarthestarlet YouTube: @pilarontv “We don’t wake up, to give up!”



TAIJHA SILAS, (they/she) is a native of Alexandria, Louisiana. Taijha has a Bachelor of Science in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and Directing and Musical Theatre from Northwestern State University. Taijha is also a Faithful Sister and Alum of Phi Mu Fraternity Kappa Iota Chapter where she served as committee head every year of her collegiate career as well as the Vice President of Greek Life at NSULA. Taijha has been performing for over 10 years with training in music, dance, acting, directing, and tech. Taijha has performed in shows such as *Hairspray*, *Rock of Ages*, *Sister Act*, and *Fame*. Taijha has also directed selections from *Love/Sick*, *Sealed for Freshness*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and *The Outsiders*. In their career, Taijha has performed professionally as a Dancer and Host for the Peanuts Block Party at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio! Taijha is currently a Second-Year Acting

Fellow with the Black Rep where they have performed in many touring shows and on the mainstage in *Behind The Sheet* By Charly Evon Simpson and *Death Of A Salesman* By Authur Miller. Taijha gives thanks to all who have helped them to where they are now! Taijha is grateful for the opportunities presented to her and hopes to continue a career in theatre for a long time!



J'KOBE WALLACE, (he/him/his) is a New York based performer and is so excited to be making his debut at The Black Rep in *Eubie!* J'Kobe has most recently been touring the country as a live vocalist for *Sesame Street Live!* While on tour, J'Kobe performed in St. Louis at the Stifel Theatre. A highlight of this tour included singing at the Hulu Theatre in Madison Square Garden. He has sung alongside Broadway artists and nationally acclaimed performers in *The Nightmare Before Christmas* at Feinstein's / 54 Below. Feel free to follow him on all social platforms @jkobewallace, and check out his website jkobewallace.com for updates. Much love to my mom! Black Lives Matter. Protect Trans Kids.

SUPPORT



The Black Rep wishes to acknowledge and thank our supporters. The following contributions were made in the period from December 1, 2022 through April 20 2023. Financial gifts from companies, foundations, government entities and individuals ensure the continuance of first-rate main stage productions and education programs that touch young lives throughout Missouri and Illinois. To donate, please contact Christina Yancy, Development Associate, at 314-534-3333

Please scan the QR code or go to theblackrep.org/supporters to see the list of supporters.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue: Good Night Angeline Charleston Rag	Robert, Venezia, Coda
Shuffle Along	Ensemble
In Honeysuckle Time	Evann, Ensemble
I'm Just Wild About Harry	Evann, Samantha, Coda, PiLar, Robert
Baltimore Buzz	DeAnté, Coda, Venezia, J'kobe
Daddy	PiLar
I'm A Great Big Baby	Serdalyer
My Handyman Ain't Handy Anymore	PiLar, Carvas
Low Down Blues	Robert
Gee, I Wish I Had Someone To Rock me in the Cradle Of Love	Evann
Gee, I Wish I Had Someone To Rock me in the Cradle Of Love/ Low Down Blues	Robert and Evann
I'm Just Simply Full of Jazz	Ensemble

ACT II

High Steppin' Days	Ensemble
Dixie Moon	J'kobe, Ensemble
Wearry	Evann, Ensemble
Roll Jordan	Ensemble
Memories Of You	Evann
If You Never Been Vamped By A Brownskin, You've Never Been Vamped At All The Vamp Wife and Husband Judge Bailiff Jury	Venezia Coda, Carvas J'kobe Serdalyer Robert, Samantha, DeAnté, Tamara PiLar
Got To Get the Getting While The Gittin's Good	J'kobe
Craving For That Kind Of Love	Coda
Hot Feet	Robert
Goodnight Angeline	J'kobe, Serdalyer, Evann, PiLar
Finale	Ensemble

STAGE MANAGEMENT

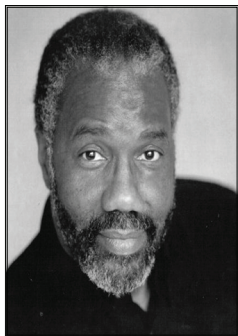


TRACY D. HOLLIWAY WIGGINS (Stage Manager), is a native of East St. Louis and a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She has served in various roles with The Black Rep for thirty-three years. Some of her favorite stage management credits with the company include *Black Nativity*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, *Strands* and *Nina Simone: Four Women*. She has also stage managed for Dances of India, ATRK Dance Company and Washington University Dance Theatre. Tracy thanks God for the vision of Genesis Academy of Arts and Fine Arts Ministry, Genesis Arts Ministry of East St. Louis and Frontline Freedom where she is the Deliverance Ministry. She believes Matthew 21:22



ZAHRIA MOORE (Assistant Stage Manager), (she/her) is an actor, playwright, poet, and scholar from the metro Atlanta area. She is a member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, a proud graduate of the University of Maryland where she received her MA in Theatre and Performance Studies, and a forever Mizzou Tiger. As an AmeriCorps Community Arts Fellow, Zahria has served The Black Rep as an actor with the Professional Touring Company, teaching artist, study guide content writer, assistant Dramaturg for *Jitney* and *The African Company Presents Richard III*, and Dramaturg for *Skeleton Crew*. Zahria has also assisted production on *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea*, *Behind the Sheet*, and *Sweat*. She is most grateful for the opportunity to continue her professional development at The Black Rep.

THE ARTISTIC TEAM



RON HIMES (Director), has produced and directed more than 200 plays at The Black Rep, including all ten plays written by August Wilson. His Black Rep directing credits include: *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *Jitney*, *Sweat*, *Spell #7*, *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Nina Simone: Four Women*, *Canfield Drive*, *Dot*, *Lines In The Dust*, *Twisted Melodies*, *Sunset Baby*, *Purlie*, *Black Nativity: A Holiday Celebration*, the critically acclaimed productions of *Ruined* and *The Montford Point Marine*. Himes also created and directed the highly acclaimed, *Crossin' Over* and *Tell Me Somethin' Good*. He has directed a number of world premieres including *Torn Asunder*, *Smash/Hit!*, *Insidious*, *Home the Musical*, *Servant of the People*, *Riffs* and *Urban Transitions: Loose Blossoms*. Directing credits from theatres across the country include *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Fences* (The Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville); *The ColoredMuseum* and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Flyin' West* (Delaware Theatre Company); *For Colored Girls.....*

(People's Light and Theatre Company in Philadelphia); *Riffs* (Seven Stages in Atlanta); *Spunk*, *Spell #7* and *Radio Golf* (Studio Theatre in Washington, DC); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *I'm Not Rappaport* (Old Creamery Theatre in Garrison, IA); and *An Enemy of the People* (Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, AK). University and College credits include: *Crumbs From The Table Of Joy* and *Our Town*, (University of Southern Indiana in Evansville); *Intimate Apparel*, (University of Indiana in Bloomington); *You Can't Take It With You*, (University of Wisconsin in Madison); *The Championship Season* and *The Dance on Widow's Row*, (Dillard University in New Orleans); *Three Ways Home* (University of Illinois in Champaign); *The Darker Face of the Earth* (University of South Carolina in Columbia); *For Colored Girls.....*, *Blues for Mr. Charlie*, *Hairspray*, *Ragtime*, *The Lion and The Jewel* and *Trojan Women* (Washington University in St. Louis).



JOE DREYER (Musical Director), has been performing in St. Louis (with two stints in Los Angeles) since the 1970s. He has been affiliated with many theatres, hotels, restaurants, corporations, retirement homes, country clubs and private groups; from Grand Center to Theatre Project Company to First Night, including The Black Rep way back in the 1980s, often in collaboration with his talented wife, actress/singer Rosemary Watts. Joe's favorite credits include performing with the comedy troupe Off The Wall in Los Angeles, music directing and playing for the long-running *Menopause The Musical*, writing music and lyrics for five *Imaginary Theatre* shows at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, writing, directing and accompanying five full-length musical theatre parodies for Bellerive Country Club, composing a song recorded by Jason Alexander, performing with Dean Christopher's Rat Pack show, an evening at Powell Hall for an AIDS benefit, and cabarets with an assortment of prominent local

singers. Joe is delighted to work with this talented cast and crew, bringing Eubie Blake's glorious music to the audience his catalog deserves.



HEATHER BEAL (Choreographer), is a dancer, choreographer, actress and director who received her B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago and her MFA in dance from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a certified Dunham Technique Instructor. She has toured around the United States and France teaching and performing Dunham Technique. She has performed in many productions at The Black Rep and several productions at the St. Louis MUNY. She has choreographed *Ragtime*, *The Musical* (American Stage), *Dontrell*, *Who Kissed The Sea* (Nebraska Rep) *Feeding Beatrice* (The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), *First Date* (University of Southern Indiana), *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Me Nobody Knows*, *Rivers of Women*, *Le Freak C'est Chic*, *Purlie*, and *Dreamgirls* (The Black Rep). She is best known for her work #triggerwarning and *Black AF*, a dance critique of police brutality against Black folk in America.



VIVIAN WATT (Choreographer), is also a Director, Actress, Educator and has been a member of the St. Louis Arts community for 5 decades and was trained by Katherine Dunham and P.G. Wren. Career highlights include work with The St. Louis Black Repertory Co., Director of Dance-Gitana Productions and Theater Director, St. Louis Municipal Opera- 5 City Tour, Southern Illinois University-E theater, *A Call to Conscience* Choreographer, and Better Family Life-Director of Arts in Education and Lifetime Achievement Award. She was recognized with the 2017 Saint Louis Visionary Awards-Outstanding Teaching Artist. She has served on Missouri Arts Council and Regional Arts Commission citizens panels; she is known for the creation of KYPE- Kuumba Youth Performance Ensemble and currently Artistic Director for the performing arts company NIA-Entertainment with a Purpose.



TIM JONES (Scenic Design), is Washington DC based Scenic and props designer. His previous design work with The Black Rep has been seen in *Nina Simone: Three Women*, and *Sweat*. His work has, also been seen on stage at Lyceum Theatre, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, WSC Avant Bard, African Continuum Theatre, American University, Morgan State University, Kansas City Rep and Playhouse On the Square in Memphis, TN. He is presently the full time Prop Shop Manager and instructor at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. He has also worked as Prop Master or artisan at other companies around the country including the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. Tim is a member of the Society of Properties Artisan Managers, USITT and the Black Theatre Network. He holds a Masters of Fine Art in Scenery and Properties Design from the University of Memphis and a BA in

Communication from the Salisbury State College. Tim is a native of Washington DC Metro area but has lived and worked throughout the United States.



JASMINE WILLIAMS (Lighting Designer), is an Atlanta based Artist and Lighting Designer for theater, music, dance, opera, and immersive experiences. After a significant time spent as a Stage Manager, Jasmine transitioned to Lighting and Costume Design. As a Designer and Technician, Jasmine has worked on the debut production of *No Dream Deferred* by Tarell Alvin McCraney's, *In The Red and Brown Water*, and Tulane University's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also worked with the Flint Repertory Theater, the Alliance Theater, the New Orleans Ballet Association, and the Summer Lyric Theater at Tulane. She received her Design MFA from Tulane University in 2020, and her BA from Albany State University in 2016. Jasmine continues to collaborate with theaters, companies, directors, choreographers, and visual artists across New Orleans, and plans to build a new network in Atlanta. Jasmine appreciates her mentorship with John "Ray" Proctor and Kathy Perkins and would like to thank her family, their love, patience, and support.

mentors, and friends, for



JUSTIN SCHMITZ (Sound Designer), is grateful to be back with The Black Rep! Previous sound credits include: *Nina Simone - Four Women*, *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Jitney*, and *Home*. Justin is a proud member of USA 829, TSDCA, and USITT. Additional credits include productions at: The Kennedy Center, Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth, Studio Theatre, Constellation Theatre Company, Imagination Stage, amongst many others. He has collaborated Off-Broadway with 59E59 Theaters and Round House Theatre, The Dixon Place Theatre. He has been the designer of three national touring productions through the Kennedy Center's Theatre for Young Audiences including: *DARIUS AND TWIG*, *ME, JANE...THE DREAMS AND ADVENTURES OF YOUNG JANE GOODALL*, and most recently *DON'T LET PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS, THE MUSICAL!* in collaboration with Mo Willems. For more information, please visit www.justinschmitztheatre.com



MARC W. VITAL II(Costume Designer), (he, him, they) is the Assistant Professor of Costume Design at the University of Missouri. He serves KCACTF Region 5 as the Vice Chair of Representation, Equity, and Diversity, promoting inclusion and providing opportunities for our underserved members. He earned his BA in Theatre with a Concentration in Costume Design from the University of Alabama and his MFA in Costume Design from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His recent works include *The Prom*, based on an original concept by Jack Viertel with book and lyrics by Chad Beguelin, book by Bob Martin, and music by Matthew Sklar; *Ragtime* by Terrence McNally with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens; and *Luchadora* by Alvaro Saar Rios.

The Black Rep
Community and Education
Programs
Touring Productions

PLAN B3

by Pearl Cleage

Directed by Geovonday Jones.

Grades: K-8th

Before joining her friends for a #genius performance at their talent show, Janet must choose between the show or sitting in for climate change. Can she be the change she wants to see? Plan B3 is a relatable story about the importance of generational lessons and using them to stand up for what we believe is right.

FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

by Robert Alan Mitchell

Directed by Ron Himes

Grades: 6-12

A new play celebrating the life and work of Frankie Muse Freeman, an African-American Civil Rights Attorney and the first female U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner, told from the perspective of her daughter.

TURN-UP

by Naima Carter Russell & Eugene H. Russell IV

Directed by Heather Beal

Grades Pre K - 4

Coach Carver is determined to save a failing community garden but he just can't seem to keep people interested. He fears that this growing season may be the garden's last. A mail delivery mixup somehow leads to one of his turnips growing bigger than any he's ever seen! How will he even get it out of the ground? What will he do with it when he does? A lively bunch of characters "Turn Up" to help but will it be enough? Turn-Up is a fun, humorous story about perseverance and the power of community.

The Black Rep offers three 50-minute touring productions performed by members of the Professional Fellows Program. These shows are designed to be presented in most open spaces such as multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums and theatre auditoriums. No special lighting or sound equipment is required. Touring productions are accompanied by educational study guides with pre and post-performance activities designed to enlighten educators and students.

Workshops and Residences

Members of the Professional Touring Company conduct drama workshops in residence in schools and community centers throughout the year. Classes vary in length from 90-min. workshops to masterclasses taught for several weeks. Subject matter may be customized to fit curriculum or other requirements.

*\$225 per 90 Min.

(Minimum 90-min. sessions)

Teen Tech

The Teen Tech Program allows interested teens to gain experience understand what it takes to develop a production behind the scenes.

*Classes are held on Sat. from 10am-12pm for 8 weeks.

Prices: \$10 per class

Young Actors Ensemble

The Young Actors Ensemble is composed of young artists (ages 8-17). Classes from professional artists are held every Saturday from 10-11:15am for 8 wks

Prices: \$10 per class

Summer Performing Arts

Each summer The Black Rep provides an 8-week arts intensive designed to provide students an exciting opportunity to artistically express themselves through Theatre, Acting, Visual Arts, Dance, Movement, Playwriting, and Music.

MAINSTAGE INTERGENERATIONAL MATINEES

The Black Rep is pleased to present intergenerational matinees for all mainstage productions. Intergenerational matinees were uniquely designed to allow schools and other local organizations to experience live theatre performances and participate in post-show discussions, at an affordable rate. For more information, to book a touring show or an Intergenerational Matinee contact the Education Dept. 314 -534-3807

EUBIE

Edison Theatre

Washington University in St. Louis

MAY 10, 2023

For more information email:
education@theblackrep.org or call: 314-534-3807 ext.2

Sophisticated Ladies 2023

A Women's Giving Initiative committed to underwriting a main stage production each year highlighting the talents of Black female artists

Begun in 2018, Sophisticated Ladies is committed to underwriting a main stage production, written by a woman of color, in honor of the many women upon whose shoulders we stand - who grace our stages, production teams, office, management, and education programs.

In 2018, we presented *Nina Simone: Four Women*, by Christina Ham, in 2019, *Spell #7* by Ntozake Shange, and in 2022 *Behind The Sheet* by Charly Evon Simpson.

For our 46th Season performance we presented *Skeleton Crew*, by Dominique Morisseau.

Skeleton Crew was directed by Geovonday Jones. This production was made possible in part by the Sophisticated Ladies giving initiative and Caleres.

Giving Levels



Lorraine
Hansberry
\$2500



Ruby Dee
\$1000



Nina Simone
\$500



Cicely Tyson
\$250



Viola Davis
\$100

Sophisticated Ladies 2023

Ruby Dee - 1000

Barbara (and Tom) Feiner
Susan (and Peter) Tuteur

Nina Simone - 500

Carolyn Becker
Jane (and Robert) Bruce
Lisa (and Allan) Silverberg

Cicely Tyson - 250

Britt and Satonya Booker
Monica Huddleston
Gisele Marcus

Viola Davis - 100

Jessica Kennedy
Suzanne Loui
Monica McFee
Cynthia Krimmel
Nancy Ridenour



And Many Generous Anonymous Donors

For inquiries contact Christina Yancy at christinay@theblackrep.org or call
(314) 885 3333.

BLUES ON THE BLOCK 2023

The best in blues, soul, and r&b, all summer long

On select Saturdays
starting June 3rd
4pm to 7pm

At the Corner of
6th Street and
Washington Avenue

FREE | Beverages available for purchase | CHAIRS FOR RENT
For show dates visit nationalbluesmuseum.org/calendar

MERCHANDISE

BURGUNDY & GOLD MASK LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT
BURGUNDY & GOLD MASK SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT
BURGUNDY & GOLD MASK SWEATSHIRT
PLAYWRIGHT SWEATSHIRT
PLAYWRIGHT LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT
POP SOCKET
AFRICAN FOLDING FAN
BURGUNDY AND BEIGE CAPS
BURGUNDY COFFEE MUGS
THE BLACK REP LAPEL PINS
GIBBETS
CANVAS BAGS
THE BLACK REP CHAMPAGNE GLASSES

ALL PURCHASES HELP SUPPORT THE BLACK REP - THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

IN THE THEATRE

In order to assure the enjoyment of the theatre experience for all patrons, we ask your cooperation with the following considerations of the theatre environment.

- Food is not permitted in the theatre
- Smoking is not permitted in the building.
- The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited. A violation of the Author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit: <https://shop.samuel french.com/content/files/pdf/piracy-whitepaper.pdf>.
- Please silence all cell phones, beeping watches and devices upon entering the theatre and during intermission.
- Children over the age of five are welcome in the theatre, but, no babies in arms please.
- Late comers will be seated in the nearest available seats at an appropriate pause in the performance. Patrons may move to their original seats at intermission.
- In case of fire, please walk in an orderly manner to the nearest exit. Do not run.

Special Services – The theatres are fully accessible to the physically challenged and includes wheelchair seating. Please see the House Staff.

AUDIENCE SERVICES

Box Office – The Box Office at the theatres opens two hours prior to each performance. Advance tickets are available by calling The Black Rep Box Office at 314.534.3810 or online at theblackrep.org.

To reach us in person visit:

The Black Rep Box Office
813 N. Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63130
www.theblackrep.org

GROUP SALES -Host a Night at the Theatre - Bring a group of 12-99 and receive a 10% discount, or bring a group of 100 or more and receive a 20% discount.

Please call the Box Office at 314.534.3810 to make your reservations.

SUBSCRIPTIONS – Season subscriptions offer the benefits of seat selection, ticket exchange, lost ticket replacement, and discounts to The Black Rep supporters. To subscribe, call 314.534.3810.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BLACK REP?

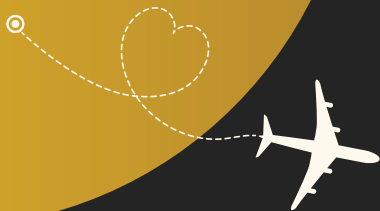
Call us.....314-534-3807

Group Sales /Tickets - Heather Beal, Audience Development

Donations - Jennifer Stoffel, Director of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives

THE BLACK REP SUMMER PERFORMING

Arts



DISCOVER & EXPLORE & PERFORM

- ✓ Acting
- ✓ Playwriting
- ✓ Visual Arts
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Movement
- ✓ Tech Theatre

DATES: JUNE 5 - JULY 21

Ages: 8-12 & 13-17

📍 University City High School, 7401 Balson Ave.

☎ 314.534.3810

🌐 www.theblackrep.org



THE BLACK REP