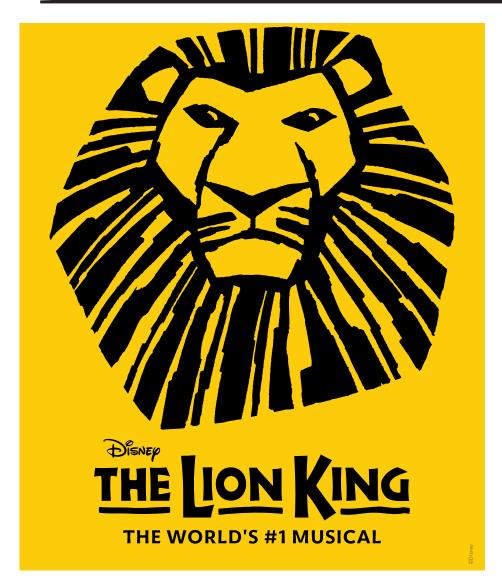
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

## The Lion King Kicks Off The Holiday Season

I can't think of a
better way to usher
in the excitement
and infectious
energy of the
holiday season than
to present one of the

most beloved productions ever to grace the stage. Welcome to Disney's *The Lion King* as it makes its triumphant return to Hartford!

Winner of six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, *The Lion King* brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway. Tony Award winner Julie Taymor directs a story filled with hope and adventure set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals. Also featured is the extraordinary work of Tony Award-winning choreographer Garth Fagan and some of Broadway's most recognizable music, crafted by Tony Award-winning artists Elton John and Tim Rice.

There are so many magical moments within *The Lion King* – it's easy to see why it remains a favorite for so many and something to be experienced again and again.

As we approach the start of the holidays, it's the perfect time of year to reflect on

everything that goes into making The Bushnell such a special place. We are so grateful for our subscribers, donors, patrons, and everyone who supports the arts in our community. Your generosity impacts both the performances on our stages and outreach programs throughout the region. It enables us to truly live into the spirit of our mission, serving as a "Center for the Benefit of the Public."

With so many great events in the weeks ahead, including Ina Garten (December 4), MJ The Musical (December 10-15), Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Cirque (December 21) and SIX (December 31-January 5), consider giving the gift of live entertainment this holiday season with a Bushnell gift card; they make a perfect stocking stuffer!

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the awe-inspiring spectacle of *The Lion King*!

Sincerely.

James Thy

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under the direction of Andrew Flatt Thomas Schumacher Anne Quart presents

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### FAPPEARANCE

RAFIKI	Mukelisiwe Goba
MUFASA	
SARABI	
	Nick LaMedica
	Peter Hargrave
YOUNG SIMBA (at certain performances)	Bryce Christian Thompson, Julian Villela
	Nick Cordileone
	Erick D. Patrick
ENSEMBLE SINGERS	Lauren Carr, Reoagile Choabi, Cedrick Ekra, Joel Karie,
	Gabisile Manana, Sakhile Mthembu, Sarita Amani Nash, Jeremy Noel, Sicelo Ntshangase, Maurica Roland,
	Poseletso Sejosingoe, Ben Toomer, Denzel Tsopnang
ENSEMBLE DANCERS	Ellen Akashi, Iman Ayana, Layla Brent, Vernon Brooks III,
ENGLINDLE D'ANCERG	Sasha Caicedo, Shaquelle Charles, Maurice Dawkins,
	Marquis Floyd, Valériane Louisy Louis Joseph,
	Saviga Eugene Peabody, Jordan Nicole Willis
STANDBYS	SCAR: William John Austin, Thom Christopher Warren;
	ZAZU: Thom Christopher Warren;
	TIMON: Thom Christopher Warren;
	PUMBAA: William John Austin, Thom Christopher Warren

#### SWINGS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Eric Bean, Jr., Lyric Danae, Justin Mensah, Aaron Nelson, Yael Pineda-Hall, Courtney Thomas, Brinie Wallace

### DANCE CAPTAINS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Courtney Thomas

### UNDERSTUDIES

(Understudies never substitute for listed players unless announced at the time of the performance) Rafiki-Reoagile Choabi, Gabisile Manana, Yael Pineda-Hall, Poseletso Sejosingoe; Mufasa-Aaron Nelson, Ben Toomer, Denzel Tsopnang; Sarabi-Lauren Carr, Sarita Amani Nash, Yael Pineda-Hall, Brinie Wallace; Zazu- Sam Linda; Scar-Aaron Nelson; Shenzi-Yael Pineda-Hall, Poseletso Sejosingoe, Brinie Wallace; Banzai-Joel Karie, Justin Mensah, ; Ed-Eric Bean, Jr., Joel Karie, Courtney Thomas; Timon-Sam Linda; Simba-Cedrick Ekra, Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel; Nala-Lauren Carr, Reoagile Choabi, Sarita Amani Nash, Poseletso Sejosingoe

### SPECIALTIES

SPECIALTIES

Circle of Life Vocals— Sakhile Mthembu, Sicelo Ntshangase; Mouse Shadow Puppet—Sicelo Ntshangase;
Ant Hill Lady—Jordan Nicole Willis; Guinea Fowl—Marquis Floyd; Buzzard Pole—Shaquelle Charles;
Gazelle Wheel—Ellen Akashi; Gazelles—Vernon Brooks III, Marquis Floyd; Lioness Chant Vocal—Sicelo Ntshangase;
Acrobatic Trickster—Sayiga Eugene Peabody; Giraffe Shadow Puppets—Jeremy Noel, Ben Toomer;
Cheetah—Sasha Caicedo; Still Giraffe—Maurice Dawkins; Scar Shadow Puppet—Jeremy Noel, Ben Toomer, Denzel Tsopnang;
Simba Shadow Puppet—Cedrick Ekra, Joel Karie, Sicelo Ntshangase; One By One Vocal—Sicelo Ntshangase, Poseletso Sejosingoe;
One By One Dance—Denzel Tsopnang; Fireflies—Jordan Nicole Willis; Pumbaa Pole Puppet—Shaquelle Charles;
Nala Pole Puppet—Sasha Caicedo; Lioness/Hyena Shadow Puppets—Lauren Carr, Reoagile Choabi, Gabisile Manana,
Sakhile Mthembu, Sarita Amani Nash, Poseletso Sejosingoe.

Reoagile Choabi, Mukelisiwe Goba, Gabisile Manana, Sakhile Mthembu, Sicelo Ntshangase, and Poseletso Sejosingoe are appearing with the permission of Actors' Equity Association.



Scan here for any updated cast replacement announcements for this performance

#### ORCHESTRA Conductor-Karl Shymanovitz

Associate Conductor-Dean Balan

Keyboard 1- Eric Banitt; Keyboard 2/Assistant Conductor-Paul McCaffrey, Danny White; Guitar-Robert Tye; Bass-Michael Brown; Drums-Phil Martin; Marimba-Mike Faue; Percussion-Stefan Monssen, Reuven Weizberg; Flutes-Darlene Drew; French Horn-Tim Riley, Music Coordinator-Michael Keller

Based on the Disney film

### LION KING

Directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff; Produced by Don Hahn Special thanks to all the artists and staff of Walt Disney Feature Animation

### SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

	ACTONE
Scene 1	Pride Rock "Circle of Life" with "Nants' Ingonyama"
Scene 2	Scar's Cave
Scene 3	Rafiki's Tree
Scene 4	The Pridelands
Scene 5	Scar's Cave
Scene 6	The Pridelands
	"I Just Can't Wait to Be King" Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble
Scene 7	Elephant Graveyard
	"Chow Down"
Scene 8	Under the Stars
	"They Live in You"
Scene 9	Elephant Graveyard
	"Be Prepared"
Scene 10	The Gorge
Scene 11	Pride Rock
	"Be Prepared" (Reprise)
	"Nao Tse Tsa"
Scene 12	Rafiki's Tree
Scene 13	The Desert/The Jungle
	"Hakuna Matata" Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Simba, Ensemble
	ACT TWO
Entr'acte	"One by One"
Scene 1	Scar's Cave
	"The Madness of King Scar"
Scene 2	The Pridelands
	"Shadowland"
Scene 3	The Jungle
Scene 4	Under the Stars
	"Endless Night"
Scene 5	Rafiki's Tree
Scene 6	The Jungle
	"Can You Feel the Love Tonight"Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble
G 7	"He Lives in You" (Reprise)
Scene 7	Pride Rock
	"King of Pride Rock"/"Circle of Life" (Reprise)

### THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

#### SONG CREDITS

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

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

### ADDITIONAL SCORE

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



#### WARNING

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

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PETER HARGRAVE (Scar). Beyond a dream to be in the Pridelands. Credits Off-Broadway and regionally including Cleveland Play House, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Disney Cruise Line. TV: "Law & Order: SVU," "FBI," "Godfather of Harlem," "Dynasty" and "Madam Secretary." Training: CWRU/CPH MFA. Thanks isn't enough for Harris, JJ, Halley, Matt, and The Lion King family. For Mom, Dad, and my everything, Kat.

**DARNELL ABRAHAM** (Mufasa) Credits: Hamilton, George Washington (International & North American Tour), Color Purple revival (1st National Tour). Select regional credits: Ragtime, Next to Normal, Side Show, Festival of The Lion King. Additional: International Cultural Exchange Resident Artist for U.S. State Department. Thank you God, wife, family, friends, Lion King creatives, Gotham Talent Agency! www.darnellabraham.com. IG: darnellabrahamofficial | Zephaniah 3:17

MUKELISIWE GOBA (Rafiki) was born in Durban, South Africa. Training: Mbongeni Ngema's Academy. Credits: K-Cap, Umoja, and The Lion King (Madrid, Gazelle Tour and Broadway). Television: "Code Black," "Telethon" (France) and "40 Principals" (Madrid). She was a back-up vocalist for South African Gospel star Rebecca Malope. Mukelisiwe thanks her family for their constant support.

NICK CORDILEONE (Timon). OFF-BROADWAY: Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd (Mint Theater), Hamlet (Theatre by the Blind). REGIONAL: The Alchemist (Shakespeare Theatre Company); Lobby Hero (The Old Globe); Crime and Punishment (Cincinnati Playhouse and Actors Theatre); Henry VI, Richard III (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); Comedy of Errors, Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey). FILM/TV: Step Up 2, "Warrior" Season 3 (HBO Max/Netflix). LOVE: Amy, Hero, & Guthrie. Instagram: @Milquetoastpoints

NICK LAMEDICA (Zazu). Broadway: Disney's The Lion King. Broadway Tour & Tokyo: WAR HORSE. Off Broadway: The Mint. Regional: Denver Center, The Rep St. Louis, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, TheaterWorks Hartford, City Theatre Company, Barrington Stage Company, Two River Theater. NY: American Globe Theatre. Television: "Chicago Fire." BFA: Marymount Manhattan College. "...only through love." www.NickLaMedica.com

**DANNY GRUMICH** (Pumbaa). is thrilled to be joining the Pridelands! TV: "FBI: Most Wanted" (CBS). Off-Broadway: A Piece of My Heart, With or Without You. Regional: Newsies (Wiesel, Stages St. Louis), Kinky Boots (Ogunquit Playhouse, ACT of CT), Sister Act (Engeman). Concerts: Follies (Carnegie Hall). Love to The Mine, family, and friends for their constant support. For Meryn and Gracie! @danny.grumich

ERICK D. PATRICK (Simba). Tours: Jesus Christ Superstar (u/s Simon), Motown The Musical (David Ruffin/ Rick James.) Regional: Rent (Benjamin Coffin III), Dreamgirls (Curtis Taylor Jr.), Songs for a New World (Man 1.) Television: "Law & Order: Organized Crime," "FBI: Most Wanted." Erick is honored to be playing Simba and tell this beautiful story that continues to reach people all over the world. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support. IG: @erickdpatrick

THEMBELIHLE CELE (Nala). Born in Durban, South Africa. Credits Include: Disney's The Lion King (Broadway, U.K & Ireland Tour, US Nat'l Tour), Mary Zimmerman's Metamorphoses, Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors, #D23EXPO 2017. TV Appearance: eTV "Popstars." For my angel mother, and my dad: VICO. MAGAYE ONGANGOLWANDLE! Endless thanks to my ever-loving husband and family. Nkulunkulu wemihlolo. Mafung' angajiki. Instagram: @lihlecele91

FOREST VANDYKE (Banzai) is thrilled to be making his Lion King debut! Off – Broadway: Dog Man: The Musical (George/Chief, Lucille Lortel Theatre), Cadaver Synod (Pope Formosus, Playwrights Horizon). Regional: Mystic Pizza: A New Musical (Lionel Hampton, Ogunquit Playhouse), Choir Boy (David, Marin Theatre Company), Goddess (Mosi, Eugene O'Neill Theater). "I want to thank my parents who are my biggest cheerleaders!!"

MARTINA SYKES (Shenzi) is elated to be joining the Pridelands! Native of St. Petersburg, Fla. and graduate of the University of Florida. Favorite credits: Motown The Musical (Broadway and First National Tour), Raindogs, Rent and Hairspray. I would like to thank God, my family and friends for their unconditional love and support. Ephesians 3:20. Instagram: Ladysykes1 www.theheARTmission.org

SAM LINDA (Ed, Understudy Timon & Zazu) is stoked beyond belief to be a part of The Lion King! Favorite credits: The Band's Visit (Writers Theatre/TheatreSquared), Fiddler on the Roof (Lyric Opera of Chicago), The Comedy of Errors (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), The Music Man (Marriott Theatre), A Chorus Line (Drury Lane Theatre). Northwestern University '20. All impossible without Faith, Mom, Dad, Freddi, and his teachers.

WILLIAM JOHN AUSTIN (Standby Scar & Pumbaa). New York Theatre: Measure for Measure, On the Verge. Regional: Trinity Rep, Hartford Stage. MFA: Brown/Trinity Rep. Voice over artist: Nigel the Xyzal owl. WilliamJohnAustin.com

THOM CHRISTOPHER WARREN (Standby Scar, Zazu, Timon & Pumbaa). 20 years with The Lion King on Broadway, tour and Shanghai. B'way: Once Upon a Mattress. Regional faves: Hello, Dolly! (Horace), La Cage... (Albin), Ragtime (Tateh), Pippin (Charles/Berthe), Next to Normal (Dan), Bruce Sussman and Barry Manilow's Harmony; World Premiere (Harry), Peter and the Starcatcher (Stache), and Spring Awakening (Adult Men). www.thomchristopherwarren.com; Rep: FSE Talent. Love to Adam & Columbus family.

RITISHA CHAKRABORTY (Young Nala at certain performances) she/her. Ritisha is joining the Pridelands from Basking Ridge, NJ. Her Broadway credits include The Skin of our Teeth and 29-hour readings for the Radio Galaxy and The Lunchbox. Off-Broadway: Fifty Key Stage Musicals at 54 Below, NYC. Other theater credits include playing Annie in Annie Jr. (W. Orange, NJ). Film credits include Concessions and Bubblegum Rox (Short) and TV: "Sesame St - Together We Can." Instagram: @ritisha.chak

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

BRYCE CHRISTIAN THOMPSON (Young Simba at certain performances) is excited to join The Lion King National Tour! Recent stage credits: X: Life and Times of Malcolm X (Young Malcolm, NY Metropolitan Opera). Other credits:

The Devil Will Run (Shah - Lead), NBC's "Bluff City Law." Bryce would like to thank his family, friends, and manager, Peggy Stamps of The SquarePeg Group, Inc., for their love and support. IG: bryce christian

JULIAN VILLELA (Young Simba at certain performances). Thrilled to make his National Tour debut! Last seen at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and Orlando Family Stage. Enjoys singing and martial arts with his sister Alejandra. Thanks to mom, dad, family, friends, Arc Casting, Disney, BAA, Yael Chanukov (voice) and The First Academy. Representation: Barry Kolker. IG: @julianvillela26

KAYLA ROSE AIMABLE (Swing, Dance Captain). Glory! Theater: The Wiz, Arkansas Repertory, The Color Purple, West Coast Black Theater Troupe, Hairspray, Royal Caribbean. She would like to Thank God, family, and mentors for all of their love and support. Psalm 23.

ELLEN AKASHI (Ensemble). Honored to join the family! BFA Chapman University. Credits include San Diego Opera, Backhausdance, Laurie Sefton Creates, Dance Lab New York, Company XIV. All love to family, friends, and the team at MSA. @ellen.akashi

IMAN AYANA (Ensemble). A dream to be joining the Pridelands! Training: The Ailey School, BFA: Florida State. Favorite credits: The Met Gala, After Midnight (NCL), Oklahoma! (DCPA), The Music Man (Goodspeed). Commercial: Fujifilm, Shea Moisture, Toyota, Con Edison. Love to my family & friends. @iman.ayana

ERIC BEAN, JR. (Swing, Understudy Ed). Originally from Bermuda, Eric attended the University of the Arts (Phila. PA) where he received his BFA in Dance Education & Choreography. A finalist in the Philadelphia A.W.A.R.D.S. competition, Mr. Bean has taught and choreographed nationally & internationally; offering master classes /workshops whenever available. Credits: Koresh Dance Co, Donn Arden's Jubilee!, Viking Ocean. Regional: The Little Mermaid, Beauty & the Beast, Once on this Island. IG: EBJDANCE

LAYLA BRENT (Ensemble). Since graduating from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Layla has performed with Beckles Dancing Company, the Oklahoma City Ballet, and SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical as Ensemble/Adult Dara.

**VERNON BROOKS III** (Ensemble). Born and raised in New Orleans, Vernon is a graduate of

Pace University and has performed with Martha Graham Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company and Parsons Dance Co. Vernon is honored to now be part of *The Lion King*.

SASHA CAICEDO (Ensemble) was born and raised in Miami, Florida. She trained at New World School of the Arts for both the HS and BFA program. Sasha has performed on stages such as the San Francisco Opera House, Adrienne Arsht Center, The Fillmore, Perez Art Museum, Lincoln Theater. She is forever grateful to have the opportunity of traveling and being on stage with such a company. IG: @Delayla

**LAUREN CARR** (Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Sarabi) is thrilled to be joining the Pridelands! Bway: New York, New York. BFA Elmhurst College. Thankful for my wonderful agents, my incredible family, and especially God. Romans 8:28. Insta: thisislaurencarr

SHAQUELLE CHARLES (Ensemble) is an Afro-Caribbean artist from Guyana who obtained his BFA at Marymount Manhattan College. Since then he has performed with Mark Morris Dance, the Metropolitan Opera, and Dianne McIntyre. He has presented works at La Biennale Dance Festival under Wayne Mcgregor, Symphony space and more.

REOAGILE CHOABI (Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki & Nala) is an actress, vocalist and songwriter and graduate of the National School of the Arts. Credits: The Lion King (Ensemble & Understudy Nala; Brazil & Asia tour) 2019 - 2024; performed National Anthem at Chinese Embassy (2018), backing vocalist in Afropunk (2018); guest on Yo-Tv (2017).

LYRIC DANAE (Swing) is elated to be making her debut in the Pridelands! She is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program and her favorite credits include: The Bodyguard, Oscar At The Crown, and the NBA Boston Celtics. @lyricdanae

MAURICE DAWKINS (Ensemble). Broadway tours: Cats, The Prom. Regional: West Side Story (Lyric Opera of Chicago), A Chorus Line (Cincinnati Playhouse), Cats (RCCL), Newsies. Alum of Sarah Lawrence College and LaGuardia Arts HS. Thanks ATB! Love you, Mom, Laura, and my cats, Mr. Business and Luna! Instagram: @dawkinsmaurice.

CEDRICK EKRA (Ensemble, Understudy Simba). National Tour Debut! Originally from West Hartford, CT. Select Credits: The

Preacher's Wife (Alliance Theatre - World Premiere), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Ogunquit Playhouse, Tuacahn). About Artists. Emerson MT '22. bisou mama et emanuella. @cedrickekra

MARQUIS FLOYD (Ensemble). Versatile Artist/Choreographer. Trained in St. Petersburg, FL. A graduate of the Boston Conservatory. Gene Kelly Artist Award Winner. Featured credits: Dance Theater Of Harlem, Bad Boys of Ballet, Super Bowl LV Halftime Show, 2021 VMA Awards, Apple+ Dickinson, and Fire Shut Up In My Bones at the Metropolitan Opera House. Marquis is ecstatic to be making his debut in the Pridelands!

VALÉRIANE LOUISY LOUIS JOSEPH (Ensemble). A Parisian with roots from Martinique. Ailey School graduate. Credits: The Lion King (Paris), Sony Music Entertainment, Classical Theater of Harlem, Shirley Black Brown, Christopher L. Huggins, Ronald K. Brown, Ruddur Dance, Creative Outlet. Featured in Omah Lay's "SOSO" music video, Asake's Barclays Center concert. @valerianellj

JOEL KARIE (Ensemble, Understudy Banzai & Ed) is happy to be returning to The Lion King after performing in the Broadway and German companies. Other credits include Aida (Germany), Ain't Misbehavin' (UK), With A Song In My Heart (UK), Dancing in the Streets (West End), Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens (West End), and proud uncle to Kennedi (Tampa). After telling this story in 4 languages, in 3 foreign countries, Joel is thrilled to be performing on America's national tour.

GABISILE MANANA (Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki). Born in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, Gabisile has previously performed with The Lion King in Australia, Holland and Spain, and throughout the world with other international performing groups, including Africa Umoja, Stamping and Mother Africa.

JUSTIN MENSAH (Swing, Understudy Banzai) is a Native New Yorker who at an early age fell in love with the stage. To further develop his craft, he studied at Harlem School of the Arts and the Institute for American Musical Theatre.

SAKHILE MTHEMBU (Ensemble) was born in Mtunzini, South Africa. Theatre: Songs of June 16, Naledi, "Madam President," TV (Muvhango), The Lion King (Madrid, Netherlands, Asia Tour), Nandi. He got featured with Chambao's Nuevo Ciclo 2016 Album.

SARITAAMANI NASH (Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Sarabi). Overjoyed to join the Pridelands! Broadway: Harry Potter & the Cursed Child. Off-Bway: Gospel According to Heather. Endless gratitude to her loved ones for their support, her agents, ARC, & The Lion King family for the opportunity to be part of this incredible legacy. @saritaamani

AARON NELSON (Swing, Fight Captain, Understudy Scar, Simba & Mufasa) is honored to be among the few in The Lion King's history to cover the "Big 3" roles and notably the first African American to perform as Scar on tour. Select Broadway/TV: The Lion King (Simba), "FBI: Most Wanted" (CBS), "Chicago Fire" (NBC). Aaron dedicates each performance to his children and loved ones. @theactlete // Psalm 9:2

JEREMY NOEL (Ensemble, Understudy Simba) is thrilled to be making his Broadway debut! He's grateful to be back on the stage. Originally from Bucks County, PA. Past credits include: Skeleton Crew (Dez), Sister Act (TJ). Ithaca College, BFA MT '21. Insta: @Jeremynoel13

SICELO NTSHANGASE (Ensemble). Originally from Mpumalanga Delmas in South Africa, Sicelo formed a band with close family friends in 2012, performing at weddings and events. In 2016 he took part in DStv's choir singing show "Clash of the Choirs" and in 2017 he joined *The Lion King*'s Madrid Production.

SAYIGA EUGENE PEABODY (Ensemble). Raised in Stevensville, MI of Liberian descent. T.V.: Fosse/ Verdon Series on FX. Tour: An American In Paris (1st National). Regional: Cats, Sister Act, and Evita (Marriott Lincolnshire). Thanks to Binder Casting. Here to Persevere!

YAEL PINEDA-HALL (Swing, Understudy Rafiki, Shenzi & Sarabi). Disney's The Lion King: Broadway, North American Tour, Singapore, London, Melbourne and Sydney (since 2003); A Christmas Carol (2013-14), Festival of The Lion King, HK (2007-08). Part of various Philippine Musical Theater Companies (2000-14) and Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company (1985-94). Grateful to be back on stage!

MAURICA ROLAND (Sarabi, Ensemble) is a Pensacola, FL native, a graduate of Louisiana State University, and is thrilled to return to the Pridelands. Favorite credits: American Vybe at Disney World, Orlando, Hairspray First National Tour (swing, u/s Dynamite). "Thanks be to God,

family, friends and my ECSD squad for your love and support." www.mauricaroland.com

POSELETSO SEJOSINGOE (Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki, Nala & Shenzi) is a South African singer and actress. International theater credits: Disney's The Lion King (West End), The Magic Flute, The Mysteries, Aesop's Fables, A Christmas Carol. Television: "M-Net's Idols" (Runner-Up), "Forced Love" (SABC1 mini-series). Poseletso has performed with international artists Michael Bolton, Josh Groban, Beyonce and Westlife.

COURTNEY THOMAS (Swing, Dance Captain, Understudy Ed) is incredibly humbled to be rejoining The Lion King National Tour. Born in Atlanta, Ga he began dancing at North Atlanta High School at 16 under the direction of Tracy Vogt and immediately fell in love with arts. He studied dance at AREA (Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment and Arts) under the direction of Jai Jones and is humbled that The Lion King is his first professional work as a dancer. Insta: @cthomdance94

BEN TOOMER (Ensemble, Understudy Mufasa) Broadway: Girl from the North Country. TV: "Law & Order." National Tour/Regional credits: Swept Away (Berkeley Rep—World Premiere), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (National Tour), Jubilee (Arena Stage). Thanks to his family, CGF and the creatives. BFA in Musical Theatre from Texas State University. @B toomer

**DENZEL TSOPNANG** (Ensemble, Understudy Mufasa) Ecstatically joining the Pridelands! Select credits: Moulin Rouge! The Musical (1st National Tour), The Scottsboro Boys (MTI Pilot), Boys in the Band (Windy City Playhouse), "Utopia" (Amazon Prime). Thanks to Gray Talent and my amazing friends and family! @edensbeel

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

JORDAN NICOLE WILLIS (Ensemble). Native of Dallas, TX, Jordan Willis received her education from Booker T. Washington HSPVA and Point Park University. Since graduating she's performed with The Black Iris Project, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, Open Dance Project and B.MOORE Dance.

JULIE TAYMOR (Director, Costume Design, Mask/Puppet Co-Design, Additional Lyrics) won the 1998 Tony Award® for Best Direction of a Musical and for Best Costumes for *The Lion* King. It also garnered Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Awards for Taymor's direction; three Moliere Awards, including Best Musical and Best Costumes; and myriad awards for her original costume, mask and puppet designs. Taymor made her Broadway debut in 1996 with Juan Darien: A Carnival Mass (Lincoln Center), nominated for five Tony Awards. Other theatre work includes M. Butterfly starring Clive Owen (Cort Theatre), Grounded (Public Theatre), The Green Bird (New Victory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, the Cort Theatre on Broadway); Titus Andronicus; The Tempest; The Taming of the Shrew (Theatre for a New Audience); The Transposed Heads (Lincoln Center and American Music Theatre Festival); Liberty's Taken (Castle Hill Festival); and Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark (Foxwoods Theatre on Broadway). Her opera productions include the Pulitzer finalist, Grendel, composed by Elliot Goldenthal (Los Angeles Opera and the Lincoln Center Festival); Mozart's Die Zauberflöte, in repertory at the Metropolitan Opera since 2004; and *Oedipus Rex* with Jessye Norman, conducted by Seiji Ozawa, for which she earned the International Classical Music Award for Best Opera Production and an Emmy<sup>®</sup> for a subsequent film version. Her first film, "Fool's Fire," an adaptation of an Edgar Allan Poe short story, aired on PBS in 1992. Her feature films include *Titus*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange; Frida, starring Salma Hayek and Alfred Molina (six 2002 Academy Award® nominations, winning two); Across the Universe (2008) Golden Globe®- nomination for Best Musical/ Comedy); and The Tempest, starring Helen Mirren, Djimon Hounsou, Russell Brand and Ben Whishaw. She recently directed *The Glorias*, starring Julianne Moore, Alicia Vikander, Bette Midler and Janelle Monae based on the life of Gloria Steinem, and completed a cinematic version of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's *Dream.* filmed during her stage production that ran at Theatre for a New Audience's new home in Brooklyn. Taymor has received a MacArthur "genius" Grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Obie Awards, the first annual Dorothy B. Chandler Award in Theatre, 2015 Inductee to the Theatre Hall of Fame, 2015 Shakespeare Theatre Company's William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre, 2017 Disney Legends Award, among many others. A book spanning her career, Julie Taymor: Playing with Fire, is available from Abrams.

ELTON JOHN (Music). The monumental career of international singer/songwriter and performer, Elton John, has spanned more than three decades. Since launching his first tour in 1970, Elton has delivered over 4,000 performances in more than 80 countries. He is one of the top-selling solo artists of all time, with 1 diamond, 40 platinum or multi-platinum, and 23 gold albums and more than 300 million records sold worldwide. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences had awarded Elton multiple Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Legend Award. In the early 1990s, Elton collaborated with lyricist Tim Rice on the soundtrack for *The Lion King*, winning him an Academy Award. The album produced two top-selling, award-winning singles: "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" and "Circle of Life." The Tony Award-winning Broadway productions of The Lion King and Aida both awarded Elton with Grammy Awards for Best Musical Show Album. Billy Elliot was nominated for a record-tying 15 Tony Awards and won 10, including Best Musical. In 1992, Elton established the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which today is one of the leading nonprofit HIV/AIDS organizations. In 1998, the Queen of England knighted him Sir Elton John, CBE, In 2004, Elton received the Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime contributions to American culture and excellence through the performing arts. In 2003, Elton was honored as the first recipient of the prestigious BRITs Icon Award. Elton announced the 'Farewell Yellow Brick Road' tour at New York's Gotham Hall in January 2018. Encompassing 5 continents, and over 350 dates, this 3-year-long tour started in September 2018 and marks his retirement from touring after more than 50 years on the road. In May 2019 it was named Billboard's Top Rock Tour. 2019 also saw the release of the critically acclaimed 'Rocketman' and global bestselling autobiography, 'Me'. An epic fantasy musical motion picture of Elton's life 'Rocketman' has been a box office smash, taking close to \$200m at the box office, and has already won two Golden Globe Awards including Best Original Song. It has also garnered nominations for three Critics' Choice Awards, four BAFTA nominations, an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song and its soundtrack has also been nominated for a GRAMMY Award.

TIM RICE (Lyrics) has worked in music, theatre and films since 1965 when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs they turned their attention to Andrew's obsession – musical theatre. Their

first collaboration (lyrics by Tim, music by Andrew) was based on the life of Dr. Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist, The Likes Of Us. Their next three works together were much more successful - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita. Tim has also worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (The Lion King, Aida), Alan Menken (Aladdin, King David, Beauty and the Beast), Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (Chess), and Stuart Brayson (From Here to Eternity). Tim founded his own cricket team in 1973 and was President of MCC in 2002. He was appointed President of the London Library in 2017 in succession to Sir Tom Stoppard. He has won several awards (an EGOT, etc.), mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.

LEBO M (Additional Music & Lyrics, Vocal Score, Vocal Arrangements, Choral Director) is known as the "voice and spirit of *The Lion King*." Once a teenage singer in Soweto, the GRAMMY® Award winner and Tony® nominee's music brings audiences to tears with hauntingly inspiring African rhythms and melodies. Lebo's talents have been hailed by the worldwide press in superlatives that might describe the most delightfully poetic of musical deities. Since his arrival in America, Lebo has attracted music industry giants such as Quincy Jones, Jimmy Cliff and Hans Zimmer as mentors, allies and collaborators. Lebo has performed and produced four albums, Rhythm of the Pride Lands (Disney), Deeper Meaning (Gallo) and The Lion King (Japanese and Hamburg cast recordings). Other credits include The Power of One, Back on the Block and Listen Up with Ouincy Jones; the feature films Outbreak (Warner Bros.), Congo (Warner Bros.) and Born to Be Wild (Paramount); he is the composer and co-producer of the Legend of Tarzan theme song, "Opar;" and the Disney television special "People." He has performed on the Academy Awards® and the Essence Awards Show, with Vanessa Redgrave at Kthimi-The Return in Kosovo, and been honored by Artists for a Free South Africa.

MARK MANCINA (Additional Music & Lyrics, Music Produced for the Stage, Additional Score). A Tony® nominee and multi-platinum, three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning composer, Mr. Mancina produced songs for Disney's blockbuster animated feature film, and proved a uniquely qualified choice to produce the music for the stage production of The Lion King. The 1994 film's critical and box office success spawned the hit album Rhythm of the Pride Lands, for which he co-wrote and produced multiple tracks, including

"He Lives in You" and "Shadowland," songs featured in the stage production. In addition to his songwriting and producing achievements, he is a seasoned film score composer. Mr. Mancina's credits include mega-hits Moana, Training Day, Speed, Twister, Bad Boys, Tarzan, and August Rush among many others.

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

IRENE MECCHI (Book) began her association with Disney, when she wrote Recycle Rex, an animated short, which won the 1994 Environmental Media Award. Irene is a co-writer of Disney's animated features The Lion King, The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Hercules. Along with co-author Roger Allers, she received a 1998 Tony® nomination for writing the book for The Lion King. Irene also adapted Annie for ABC's Wonderful World of Disney. She shares a writing credit on Disney Pixar's Brave. Irene adapted Peter Pan for NBC's live production and is currently developing several projects for the stage and screen.

GARTH FAGAN (Choreographer). From Kingston, Jamaica, Mr. Fagan is the recipient of the 1998 Tony Award®, the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award, and the 2004 Helpmann Award for Best Choreography in a Musical for his work on The Lion King. Regarded as "one of the great reformers of modern dance," Fagan has toured the world with Garth Fagan Dance for over five decades, earning international recognition and numerous accolades, including a New York Bessie Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Fulbright 50th Anniversary Distinguished Fellowship.

RICHARD HUDSON (Scenic Design). Born in Zimbabwe, Richard Hudson trained at Wimbledon School of Art. He has designed operas for Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, The Metropolitan Opera, New York, Teatro alla Scala, Maggio Musicale Florence, English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Kent Opera, Opera North, Wiener Staatsoper, Munich, Chicago, Copenhagen, Athens, Bregenz, Amsterdam, Zurich, Barcelona, Madrid, Brussels, Houston, Washington, Venice, Pesaro and Rome. He has also designed for the Aldeburgh Festival, The Royal Ballet, Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, Royal Court, Almeida and the Young Vic. In 1988, Mr. Hudson won an Olivier Award for the Jonathan Miller season at the Old Vic. His set designs for The Lion King have won numerous awards including a Tony in 1998. Mr. Hudson is a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI). In 2003 he won The Gold Medal for Set Design at the Prague Quadrennial and in 2005 he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Surrey. Recent work includes Leopoldstadt (West End and Broadway), La Boheme, Gianni Schicchi (Greek National Opera); The Nutcracker and Sleeping Beauty (American Ballet Theatre), Romeo and Juliet (Bolshoi Ballet), Four Seasons, La Bayadère Le Coq D'or and Raymonda (The Roval Danish Ballet), Das Rhinegold, Die Walküre, Siegfried and Götterdämmerung (Teatro Massimo, Palermo), Versailles (Donmar Warehouse), La Bohème (Bologna), Peter Gynt (National Theatre), Morgen und Abend (Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Deutsche Oper, Berlin) and Ballo in Maschera (Verdi Festival, Parma).

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

MICHAEL CURRY (Mask & Puppet Co-Design) is an award-winning visual artist and concept designer, known for his broad work in theater and live entertainment. He is sought out by the world's top entertainment organizations, such as The Metropolitan Opera, Universal Studios, Cirque du Soleil, and the International Olympic Committee to create large-scale spectacles. He has brought his vision to countless shows for Disney, including Frozen on Broadway. Curry's concepts can be seen in theme parks, resorts, stadium tours, and productions worldwide. Michael works closely with his long-term team in Portland, Oregon where they develop innovative solutions for future projects, as well as support multiple ongoing theatrical productions around the world.

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

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

HANS ZIMMER (Additional Music & Lyrics) has scored more than 200 projects across all mediums, which, combined, have grossed more than 28 billion dollars at the worldwide box office. Zimmer has been honored with an Academy Award®, two Golden Globes®, three Grammys®, an American Music Award, and a Tony® Award. His work highlights include Gladiator, The Thin Red Line, As Good as It Gets, Rain Man, The Knight trilogy, Inception, Thelma and Louise, The Last Samurai, 12 Years A Slave, Blade Runner 2049 (co-scored w/ Benjamin Wallfisch) and Dunkirk, as well as recent film scores including Wonder Woman 1984, Ron Howard's Hillbilly Elegy and The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge on the Run. In 2019, Zimmer scored the live-action remake of *The Lion King*, for which he received a Grammy nomination

for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media. Zimmer's films for 2021 include the James Bond film *No Time to Die*, Denis Villeneuve's *Dune, Top Gun: Maverick* and *The Boss Baby: Family Business.* Zimmer has completed highly successful Hans Zimmer Live tour stops around the globe and will continue to perform in an upcoming European tour beginning in February 2022.

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

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

MAREY GRIFFITH (Associate Choreographer). A native New Yorker, Miss Griffith toured worldwide with the acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a featured dancer/soloist. Other guest appearances include Déjà vu Dance Theatre, and the Spoleto festival in Italy.

Miss Griffith worked as co-choreographer on the star-studded production of *The Wizard of Oz* in concert at Avery Fisher Hall with Nathan Lane, Joel Grey, Jewel and Natalie Cole. She has also appeared in numerous soap operas, commercials and voice-overs. Since joining the creative team of *The Lion King* in August of 2000, Miss Griffith has been mounting and maintaining numerous productions worldwide. She feels incredibly honored to be working with choreographer Garth Fagan.

CLEMENT ISHMAEL (Music Supervisor) is a conductor, composer and arranger. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto and Royal Conservatory of Music, where he specialized in composition and conducting as well as singing with Joyce Britten. He was Associate Conductor of the Royal Conservatory of Music Choirs under the tutelage of Denise Nacisse-Mair. After graduating he continued his studies in conducting and composition at the Guildhall School of Music in London. Conducting credits include: Abbey Players Opera Company, Ad Astra Chorus, Addison Jazz Ensemble and West London Gospel Choir. He also conducted the new ballet Awakening at Sadlers Wells. West End credits include: Five Guys Named Moe, Ain't Misbehavin', Smokey Joe's Cafe and Soul Train. He has also directed and arranged the music for numerous shows which include: Sweet Lorraine. Up Against the Wall, The Amen Corner, The Grape Vine, The Cavalcaders and Gem of the Ocean at the Tricycle Theatre. His classical compositions and arrangements have been performed worldwide as well as being broadcast by BBC Television and Radio. His first Opera, Looking at the Sun, was performed at the Battersea Arts Centre, and his opera Grazyna was performed at the Royal Opera House's Lindbury Studio. Clement's latest commission, for the London Piano Trio, was debuted at the Capri Music Festival in Italy. He also successfully performed in concert his new album *Poetry in Song* at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. There are plans for further performances in London, Paris and New York. His next major composition is his third Opera, *Antigone*, with the Canadian librettist Mel Coop.

ROBERT ELHAI (Associate Music Producer, Orchestrator). This Tony® and Drama Desk nominee has arranged and orchestrated Oscar®, GRAMMY®, and Emmy®-winning music for composers Elliot Goldenthal (Juan Darien, Frida), Alan Menken ("Galavant"), Brian Tyler (Iron Man 3, Fast and Furious series) and many others. His compositions have graced theater and concert stages around the world. robertelhai.com

DAVID METZGER (Orchestrator) has composed the scores for films including Mufasa: The Lion King, Wish, and Once Upon a Studio. Along with his Tony and Drama Desk nominated work on The Lion King, he also orchestrated the Broadway version of Frozen. He is an in demand arranger, orchestrator, and producer of songs for film, with a body of work that includes Frozen, Frozen II, Moana, Tarzan, Spirited, and the upcoming Snow White, with a list of songwriters he's worked that includes Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, Alan Menken, Elton John, Tim Rice, Glenn Slater, Stephen Schwartz, Phil Collins, and Julia Michaels. He has also orchestrated over 70 films. davemetzgermusic.com

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

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

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

KEITH BENNETT (Resident Director). Broadway credits include Richie in A Chorus Line, BJ in OH, KAY!, Wonder Boy in The High Rollers, Horace in Olympus On My Mind, Banzai in The Lion King. Tours include: Dancin', The Tap Dance Kid, Sophisticated Ladies, Five Guys Named Moe. Regional: Stand-Up Tragedy, Betsey Brown, Kiss Me Kate, Bo Bo's, A Son Come Home. Show dedicated to wife Deidre and my lovely daughters Tyler and Jordan. Big shout out to my Lord God.

KELLEN STANCIL (Resident Dance Supervisor). is a NYC based Director & Choreographer. After 16 years with The Lion King and 12 of those years as the Dance Captain on Broadway, Kellen is thrilled to be joining the North American tour as the Resident Dance Supervisor. He currently holds the title of Director of Broadway Bares produced by Jerry Mitchell & BCEFA. Kellen works as an Audition Choreographer & Casting Associate for Celebrity Cruises, Disney Cruise Lines & Walt Disney World. Visit www.kellenstancil.com for more.

LISA DAWN CAVE (*Production Supervisor*) has worked on over 20 Broadway productions. She serves on the board of BC/EFA, is a Founder of Black Theatre United and Broadway & Beyond: Access for Stage Managers of Color. She is the recipient of the 2023 Tony Honors for Excellence in the Theatre. Namaste!

CHARLES UNDERHILL (Production Stage Manager) Broadway: Aladdin, Frozen, Moulin Rouge, School of Rock, Something Rotten!, Rocky, Annie, Nice Work If You Can Get It, Hugh Jackman Back on Broadway, Billy Elliot the Musical, Cat on A Hot Tin Roof (2008 Revival), Les Misérables (2006 Revival), The History Boys, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Bombay Dreams, Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Wild Party, The Scarlet Pimpernel (1.0, 2.0, 3.0). Off-Broadway: Elaine Stritch: At Liberty – The Public Theater. National tours: Frozen, Billy Elliot the Musical, Carousel. Other: Associate Production Supervisor - The Lion King (Worldwide), Frozen (Worldwide), Jimmy Buffett's Don't Stop the Carnival - Nassau, Bahamas.

MICHELLE SCALPONE (Stage Manager). Broadway: Love Life (Encores), Fish In The Dark, Matilda, Forever Tango, Chaplin. NYC: The Public Theater, Audible, The New Group, Red Bull, The Shed, Atlantic; TV: "Encore!" (Disney+), NBC's "The Wiz Live." Regional: Kennedy Center, Bucks County, Goodspeed, Williamstown, Old Globe. Education: University of Arizona & Juiliard. For Dad, Mom, & Julie.

KAREN PARLATO (Assistant Stage Manager). Broadway: The Phantom of the Opera. Off-Broadway: Silence! The Musical, The Fantasticks, Triassic Parq, Wanda's World. Regional theatres including: Ogunquit Playhouse, Fulton Theatre, Crossroads Theatre Company. Love and thanks to Mom, Dad and Aunt Joan. Twitter: @HeadsetChatter

**CATHY HWANG** (Assistant Stage Manager). Broadway: KPOP, Thoughts of a Colored Man.

Tours: Disney's Frozen, Moulin Rouge! The Musical (1st National). Regional: Thoughts of a Colored Man, King of the Yees (Baltimore Center Stage); Pamplona, Father Comes Home from the Wars, The Wolves, Yasmina's Necklace (Goodman Theatre).

GWENDOLYN M. GILLIAM (Sub Stage Manager). Broadway and Tour stage management credits include Slave Play, Eclipsed, Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, Bring In Da Noise/Bring In Da Funk, Aida, Topdog/Underdog, Chicago, Marley and Fela! She has managed events for numerous charities and corporations including Jackie Robinson Foundation, Jazzmobile, Merrill Lynch, New Line Cinema, The Apollo and NY Film Festival for Film Society of Lincoln Center.

KRISTIN NEWHOUSE (Sub Stage Manager). Broadway and touring credits include: The Lion King, Mary Poppins, Kinky Boots, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time. Various Corporate, TV and special events include directing "Gypsy of the Year" and "The Easter Bonnet Competition" for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

JOSHUA PILOTE (Sub Stage Manager). Broadway: Aladdin, Other Desert Cities. Tours: Miss Saigon, The Bridges of Madison County, Jersey Boys, Mamma Mia!, Dirty Dancing, RENT, Disney's The Little Mermaid. Other: Blue Man Group, Dallas Theater Center, La Jolla Playhouse, LA Philharmonic, The Old Globe, Public Theater, Roundabout, T.U.T.S. Proud AEA Member. B.A.: The College of Idaho. Follow his adventures on Instagram @co pilote.

PATRICK WETZEL (Sub Stage Manager). Broadway: Ain't Broadway Grand (debut), Annie Get Your Gun, Thou Shalt Not, The Producers, The Drowsy Chaperone, Spamalot, All About Me, Aladdin, Tuck Everlasting, Something Rotten, Frozen. Tours: The Prom (Barry Glickman), Billy Elliot (Mr. Braithwaite - Helen Hayes nomination), Cinderella, Joseph...Dreamcoat. Off-Broadway: Atlantic Theater Company, Carnegie Hall. @patrickwetzelnyc

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

DISNEY THEATRICAL GROUP, a division of The Walt Disney Studios, was formed in 1994 and operates under the direction of Andrew Flatt, Anne Quart and Thomas Schumacher. Worldwide, its ten Broadway titles have been seen by more than 200 million theatregoers and have been nominated for 62 Tony® Awards, winning Broadway's highest honor 20 times. The company's inaugural production, Beauty and the Beast, opened in 1994, playing a remarkable 13-year run on Broadway and produced in replica productions around the world over four decades. In November 1997, Disney made theatrical history with the opening of *The Lion King*, which received six 1998 Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Director, Julie Taymor, who became the first woman in Broadway history to the win the award. Surpassing 25 landmark years on Broadway, it has welcomed 112 million visitors worldwide to date and has multiple productions currently running worldwide. The Lion King has played over 100 cities in 24 countries on every continent except Antarctica and its world-

wide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or entertainment title in box office history. Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida opened on Broadway next, winning four 2000 Tony Awards. It was followed by Mary Poppins, a co-production with Cameron Mackintosh, which opened in London in 2004 and went on to enjoy a sixyear Tony-winning Broadway run. Tarzan®, Tony-nominated for its 2006 Broadway premiere, went on to become an international hit with an award-winning production enjoying a ten-year run in Germany. In January 2008, The Little Mermaid opened on Broadway and was the best-selling new musical of that year. Disney Theatrical Group opened two critically acclaimed productions on Broadway in 2012, winning seven Tony Awards between them: Peter and the Starcatcher and Newsies, each of which enjoyed a two-year run and launched North American tours, with Newsies playing a record-breaking Fathom Events in-cinema release. Aladdin, Disney Theatrical Group's 2014 hit, continues its smash Broadway run. It has launched nine productions on four continents and been seen by more than 17 million guests. Disney Theatrical Group's newest hit, the 2018 Tony-

nominated Best Musical Frozen has launched eight productions around the world. Other stage ventures include the world-premiere of *Hercules* in Hamburg, Germany, the Olivier-nominated West End hit Shakespeare in Love, stage productions of Disney's High School Musical, Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame in Berlin and King David in concert on Broadway. Disney Theatrical Group has collaborated with preeminent theatres in the US to develop new stage musicals including The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Freaky Friday. As a part of the recent acquisition of 21st Century Fox, Disney Theatrical Group also heads the Buena Vista Theatrical banner, which licenses Fox titles for stage adaptations including Anastasia, Moulin Rouge! The Musical and Mrs. Doubtfire. Next on the Disney Theatrical schedule: The premiere of *Hercules* in London's West End, the North American tour of a reimagined production of Beauty and The Beast, and the ongoing development of the smash film *The* Greatest Showman as a stage musical. With dozens of productions currently produced or licensed, a Disney musical is being performed professionally somewhere on the planet virtually every hour of the day.



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The Lion King originally premiered at the Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, MN

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The Musicians, Conductors, Music Preparation Personnel and Librarians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

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This production is produced by a member of The Broadway League in collaboration with our professional union-represented employees.

SONG EXCERPTS (used by permission): "Let It Go" written by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez; "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" written by Hugo Peretit, George David Weiss, Luigi Creatore and Solomon Linda; "Nao Tse Tsa" written by Jacques Loubelo; "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" written by Joe Young, Ray Henderson and Sam M. Lewis.

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## THE BUSHNELL SERVICES

The Customer Relations Desk is located on the Belding First Floor Lobby. If you need assistance during the performance, please ask an usher for a House Manger, or visit the Customer Relations Desk

### The Bushnell Box Office

The Bushnell Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday beginning at noon (on Bushnell-ticketed performance days only). The Box Office remains open 30 minutes after curtain for all performances. Telephone (860) 987-5900. Tickets, news, and information are available online at www.bushnell.org.

### **Parking**

Secure and well-lit free parking is available in the State of Connecticut lot at 107 Capitol Ave. and the Buckingham Garage at 315 Buckingham St. These locations are first-come. first-served and open 2 hours before each performance and closes 1 hour after. Accessible parking is available in both locations with a valid accessible parking permit. In addition, valet parking is available for most evening and weekend performances at a cost of \$15 per vehicle. Excludes weekday matinees.

### Late Arrival

Late seating will be at the discretion of the production and requires that late patrons wait to enter the theater until a designated break in the performance. For your convenience, closed circuit televisions are in the lobbies.

### In Case of an Emergency

Exits are indicated by signs located above the theater entrances. For your safety, please check the location of the exit nearest your seat. In the event of an evacuation, Bushnell staff and volunteers are available to assist you.

#### Café

Visit Max's Café for a quick bite before the show. Max's Café features soups, salads, sandwiches, pastries and more. Max's Café is open 2 hours prior to most shows.

### **Disruptive Behavior**

Any patron who poses a health or sanitary risk; disturbs other patrons; causes damage to The Bushnell property; or does not cooperate with staff and security personnel will be asked to leave the yenue.

#### **Electronic Devices**

Cellular phones and other electronic devices should be silenced prior to entering the theater. Text messaging and the use of other devices that cause unnecessary light are prohibited in the theater.

#### **End of Performance**

For your safety and the safety of your fellow patrons, please do not leave your seat until the house lights have been turned on.

Not only is it dark, but it is inconsiderate to others, including the performers.

#### Tours

Onsite and offsite tours are given by appointment and are complimentary. Please visit Bushnell.org/visit/tours to request a tour.

### Children

Everyone attending performances at The Bushnell must have a ticket, regardless of age. To ensure optimum enjoyment for all patrons, we recommend that children under 5 only attend shows in the Family Series and The Bushnell Children's Theatre. The Bushnell staff reserves the right to ask any parents/guardians whose children cause disruptions during a performance to leave the theater.

#### Lost & Found

Call (860) 987.6061 or email feedback@bushnell.org for lost items.

### **Accessibility Information**

The Bushnell is equipped with accessible entrances, ramps, elevators, and restrooms. When ordering your tickets, be sure to tell the Box Office of any special requirements. Information on the Sennheiser MobileConnect App, Assisted Listening Devices and induction loops are available at the Customer Relations Desk to assist with sound amplification and clarity. A photo ID must be presented. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own headphones. Disposable earbuds are available, if needed. Audio Description and ASL are available for select performances. Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed performances are available throughout the season. Sensory-Friendly supports can be found at the Customer Relations Desk for all performances. For a list of accessible performances, visit bushnell.org/visit/ accessibility.



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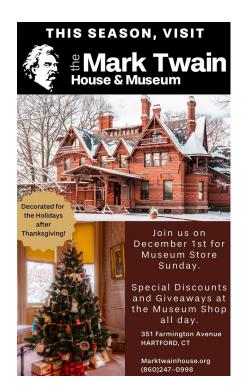


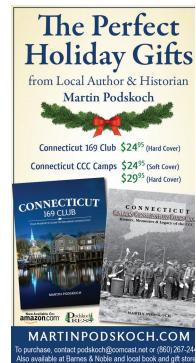
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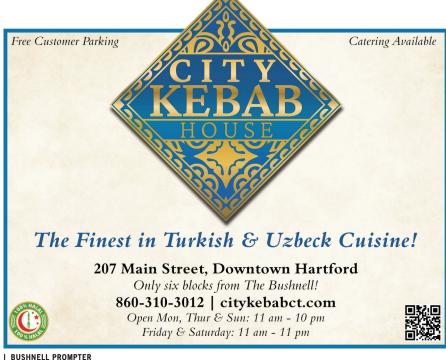
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