THE PUBLIC THEATER

OSKAR EUSTIS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **PATRICK WILLINGHAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Presents



Book by KRISTOFFER DIAZ Music Supervision by **ADAM BLACKSTONE** Choreography by **CAMILLE A. BROWN** Directed by MICHAEL GREIF

Featuring SHOSHANA BEAN, CHAD CARSTARPHEN, REID CLARKE, CHLOE DAVIS, NICO DeJESUS, BRANDŎN VICTOR DIXON, TIMOTHY L. EDWARDS, DESMOND SEAN ELLINGTON, BADIA FARHA, VANESSA FERGUSON, DAVID GUZMAN, CRYSTAL MONEE HALL, GIANNA HARRIS, JAKEIM HART, CHRIS LEE, JACKIE LÉON, KECIA LEWIS, RAECHELLE MANALO, JADE MILAN, MALEAH JOI MOON, ONYXX NOEL, SUSAN OLIVERAS, SARAH PARKER, AARON NICHOLAS PATTERSON, WILLIAM ROBERSON, NIKI SALUDEZ, MARIAND TORRES, DONNA VIVINO, LAMONT WALKER II, and OSCAR WHITNEY JR.

Scenic Design ROBERT BRILL **Costume Design DEDE AYITE** Lighting Design NATASHA KATZ Sound Design GARETH OWEN Projection Design PETER NIGRINI Hair and Wig Design MIA NEAL Prop Manager CLAIRE M. KAVANAH **Orchestrations ADAM BLACKSTONE & TOM KITT** Arrangements ALICIA KEYS & ADAM BLACKSTONE Music Consultant TOM KITT

Music Coordinator KRISTY NORTER Music Director **DOMINIC FALLACARO** Casting HEIDI GRIFFITHS/KATE MURRAY Production Stage Manager DANNY MALY Line Producer CITLALI PIZARRO

Company Manager **HEATHER FICHTHORN** Production Manager CRISTINA AYÓN VIESCA

Associate Artistic Director / Resident Director **SAHEEM ALI**

Director of Artistic Programs FREEDOME BRADLEY-BALLENTINE

Associate Artistic Director /

Director of Producing & Artistic Planning CHIARA KLEIN

Managing Director
JEREMY ADAMS

MANDY HACKETT Directors of Casting

HEIDI GRIFFITHS JORDAN THALER

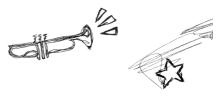
Director of Production

PETER DEAN

Produced with the generous support of AK Worldwide Media. Inc.

Lead production support for HELL'S KITCHEN is provided by THE BLAVATNIK FAMILY FOUNDATION. PETER FINE, and TERESA TSAI.

HELL'S KITCHEN is made possible by generous support from The CLAWS Foundation/Cathy Dantchik, David C. Frederick & Sophia Lynn, Gayle Cohen Heller & David Heller, The Klingenstein-Martell Foundation, Gina Maria Leonetti, Open Society Foundations, Audrey & Zygi Wilf, Frances Wilkinson & Jennifer Melin Miller, and Ted & Anne Clarke Wolff. THE LUESTHER T. MERTZ LEGACY TRUST provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.







COMPANY

(in alphabetical order)

Jersey	SHOSHANA BEAN
Ray/Ensemble	SHOSHANA BEAN CHAD CARSTARPHEN
Ensemble	REID CLARKE
Ensemble	CHLOE DAVIS
	NICO DeJESUS
Davis	BRANDON VICTOR DIXON
Ensemble	TIMOTHY L. EDWARDS
Tiny/Ensemble	VANESSA FERGUSON
Ensemble	DAVID GUZMAN
Crystal/Ensemble	CRYSTAL MONEE HALL
Q/Ensemble	JAKEIM HART
	CHRIS LEE
Jessica/Ensemble	JACKIE LEON
	KECIA LEWIS
Ensemble	RAECHELLE MANALO
Ali	MALEAH JOI MOON
Ensemble	SARAH PARKER
	NIKI SALUDEZ
Millie/Ensemble	MARIAND TORRES
Riq/Ensemble	MARIAND TORRES LAMONT WALKER II
Stage Managers	. ANTHONY RIGAGLIA, TIFFANY N. ROBINSON,
	I HICA CÁNCHEZ COLÓN
Dance Captain	WILLIAM ROBERSON

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

For Ali—GIANNA HARRIS, JADE MILAN; for Crystal—BÂDIA FARHA, SUSAN OLIVERAS; for Davis—CHAD CARSTARPHEN, DESMOND SEAN ELLINGTON; for Ensemble—ONYXX NOEL, AARON NICHOLAS PATTERSON, WILLIAM ROBERSON; for Jersey—MARIAND TORRES, DONNA VIVINO; for Jessica—GIANNA HARRIS, JADE MILAN; for Knuck—LAMONT WALKER II, OSCAR WHITNEY JR.; for Millie—BADIA FARHA, SUSAN OLIVERAS; for Miss Liza Jane—BADIA FARHA, CRYSTAL MONEE HALL; for Q—AARON NICHOLAS PATTERSON, OSCAR WHITNEY JR.; for Riq—AARON NICHOLAS PATTERSON, OSCAR WHITNEY JR.; for Riq—AARON NICHOLAS PATTERSON, OSCAR WHITNEY JR.; for Tiny—GIANNA HARRIS, JADE MILAN.



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers and watches. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited by New York City law.

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to HELL'S KITCHEN, Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz's astonishing New York coming-of-age story.

Alicia Keys may be a worldwide phenomenon, a global superstar, but this isn't a story about celebrity. Nor is it a story about fame, success, or riches. This is a story about a 17-year-old girl growing up in Manhattan Plaza in the 90s. It's a story about how a girl both separates from and embraces her family, how she enters the world with fear and faith and courage, how she discovers art, herself, and herself in art. It's an ode to overcoming pain and loss through art and love. It is a story that is wonderfully unique, and also a story that is happening every day, in streets and neighborhoods across New York.

Part of what makes Alicia such a great artist is that she has never forgotten where she came from. In Kris Diaz, she has found a perfect collaborator—Kris understands the streets of New York, he understands the sound of New York, and he can encompass the enormous compassion, joy, and love of Alicia's work in story and words. Camille A. Brown continues her meteoric impact on the American theater with choreography that is breathtaking and fresh, bringing a sophisticated dance vocabulary to the streets of Hell's Kitchen with a rigor reminiscent of Jerome Robbins' bringing ballet to the streets of Bunker Hill in West Side Story. Michael Greif, a beloved member of The Public's family for over 30 years, has shaped the production with his usual meticulous attention to detail and generous leadership. We are so lucky to have this remarkable group of artists working under our roof.

We need HELL'S KITCHEN right now. It is a love song to New York City, a reminder of what we love about our city, a reminder of what is possible when New York is working the way it should—to create a common ground where everyone has the chance to discover what is best in themselves, and in their community. HELL'S KITCHEN offers hope, not an easy or simple hope, but hope, nonetheless.

I feel lucky to be in this audience. I hope you do, too.

OSKAR EUSTISARTISTIC DIRECTOR. THE PUBLIC THEATER

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"The Gospel"

"The River"

"Seventeen"

"You Don't Know My Name"

"Kaleidoscope"

"Gramercy Park"

"Not Even the King"

"Teenage Love Affair"

"Un-thinkable (I'm Ready)"

"Girl on Fire"

"Perfect Way to Die"

ACT II

"Authors of Forever"

"Heartburn"

"Love Looks Better"

"Work on It"

"Authors of Forever (Reprise)"

"Fallin"

"If I Ain't Got You"

"Pawn It All"

"Like You'll Never See Me Again"

"When It's All Over"

"Hallelujah/Like Water"

"No One"

"Empire State of Mind"

MUSICIANS

Music Director-DOMINIC FALLACARO

Associate Music Director-JOHN YUN

Piano-AZIZA MILLER; Guitar-MARC MALSEGNA; Bass-AARON ROMERO;

Drums—JAYLEN PETINEUD; Percussion—VICTOR PABLO

Electronic Music Programmer: Randy Cohen, Randy Cohen Keyboards

Ableton Programmer: Enrico De Trizio

Music Copying: Emily Grishman; Music Preparation: Adriana Grace, Alden Terry

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THE PUBLIC THEATER continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theatres, The Public has long operated on the principles that theatre is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Lab, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *Hair* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American theatre and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical Hamilton by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 190 Obie Awards, 57 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 62 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

SHOSHANA BEAN (*Jersey*). Broadway: *Mr. Saturday Night* (Susan, Tony and

Grammy nomination), Waitress (Jenna), Wicked (Elphaba), Hairspray (OBC). Regional: Funny Girl (Fanny Brice, IRNE Award), Beaches (CeeCee Bloom, Jeff nomination). Film/TV: "Bloodline," Bill & Ted Face the Music, "Stars on Stage" (PBS), "Michael Jackson: 30th Anniversary Celebration." Six solo albums, two dogs, raised by one amazing single mom. shoshanabean.com

CHAD CARSTARPHEN he/him (Ray/ Ensemble). Off-Broadway: Between the Bars (HERE Arts Center); Evensong (APAC); The Conscientious Objector (Theatre Row); El Bolero Was My Downfall, Neon Baby (Pregones/PRTT). National tour: In the Heights (first national tour). Regional: Kiss My Aztec!, Broke-ology. Film: Landing Up, Dumped. TV: "Sesame Street." @chadcarstarphen

REID CLARKE (Ensemble). Off-Broadway: The Seagull/Woodstock, NY; Black No More; Miss You Like Hell; The Fortress of Solitude; Cabin in the Sky. National tour: Fela! Regional: Trading Places (Alliance Theater), The Wiz (The Muny). TV: "The Get Down," "Dickinson," "The Wiz Live!," "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade." Film: Coming 2 America, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom. Metropolitan Opera: Porgy and Bess.

CHLOE DAVIS she/her (Ensemble). The Public: for colored girls... (associate choreographer). Broadway: Paradise Square. Off-Broadway: Cabin in the Sky. The Met Opera: Porgy and Bess, Champion. Film: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom. TV: "Harlem," "Tell Me a Story." Credits/awards: Camille A.

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Brown & Dancers, PHILADANCO, Drama Desk Award, author of *The Queens' English*.

NICO DeJESUS he/him (Ensemble) was Fallin' all over the stage in Newsies. Helped show A Woman's Worth in Pretty Woman. Helped Juliet do the Unthinkable in & Juliet. I'm no Superwoman but is Ant-Man. I am No One without God, parents, Greg, MSA and my best bud Mac. Thanks, Alicia, for the music and my bio. @Nicoofjesus

BRANDON VICTOR DIXON (Davis). Emmy, Grammy, Tony-nominated actor/producer. Producer: Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Tony), 88 (Apple TV, Tribeca Film Festival). Broadway: Hamilton, Shuffle Along (Tony nomination), The Color Purple (Tony nomination), Motown the Musical (Grammy nomination); Scottsboro Boys (Olivier, Drama Desk nominations). TV: NBC's "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert," "This Is Us," Starz's "Power," Peacock's "The Best Man."

TIMOTHY L. EDWARDS he/him (*Ensemble*). Hawaii native and dancer for Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Commercial works include "Harlem" on Amazon Prime; "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert" on NBC; *Porgy & Bess, Fire Shut Up in My Bones* and *Champion* at the Metropolitan Opera; and *The Wiz* at the Muny. Edwards is honored to be a part of *Hell's Kitchen*!

DESMOND SEAN ELLINGTON (*Understudy Davis/Ray*). National tour: *Hamilton* Philip company (Hercules Mulligan/James Madison, understudy George Washington/Aaron Burr), *Hamilton* and Peggy company (George Washington). Regional: *Born for This, I Dream, Black Nativity*. Love and gratitude to God and my incredible family. IG: @desmondseanellington

BADIA FARHA (*Understudy Miss Liza Jane/Crystal/Millie*) is thrilled to be a part of this cast and working with The Public! She's done a lot of cool things with a lot of cool people. This is one of the coolest. Love to my family and everyone who makes this a fun journey. BadiaFarha.com @BadiaFarha

VANESSA FERGUSON (*Tiny/Ensemble*) is excited for her debut role as Tiny/Ensemble

in The Public Theater's production of *Hell's Kitchen*. She spent many years performing internationally as an R&B/hip-hop singer/musician. She was a semi-finalist on NBC's "The Voice" season 12. Ferguson released the single "Can't Let You." Visit vanessaferguson.com for more.

DAVID GUZMAN (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making his debut at The Public Theater. Broadway: *Hamilton*, *Newsies*. Film/TV: Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* (Tino), *Better Nate than Ever*, 76th Annual Tony Awards. Founder of Playspace (IG @playspace.nyc). Endless love to my wife Karla, my fam, Mom, Dad, Jacob, Liana, Elisa and agents CTG. @D_Guzz (IG)

CRYSTAL MONEE HALL she/her (*Crystall Ensemble*) is thrilled to make her debut at The Public. An NYC-based singer-songwriter, composer/lyricist and vocal director/arranger/producer, Hall's credits include *Rent*, Kristin Chenoweth's *For the Girls*, Ayodele Casel's *Chasing Magic*, the CW's "Walker" and HBO's "High Maintenance." The Lilly Awards' 2021 "Go Write a Musical" Award recipient. crystalmoneehall.com @crystalmonee

GIANNA HARRIS she/they (Understudy Ali/Jessica/Tiny). Broadway: School of Rock the Musical. Off-Broadway: The Perfect Fit. National tours: School of Rock the Musical. Film: Mighty Oak. TV: "FBI: Most Wanted." Favorite things: cats, books and coffee. She is passionate about LGBTQIA and BLM. Insta: @thegiannaharris

JAKEIM HART (*Q/Ensemble*). Broadway: *Almost Famous* (Dennis Hope, understudy Russell). Off-Broadway: *Sing Street* (NYTW), *Saturday Night* (Second Stage). Regional: *We Live in Cairo* (A.R.T.). Television: "Blue Bloods" (CBS), "The Affair" (Showtime). Debut EP *Bad Country* coming soon to streaming. Proudly on the autism spectrum. For Keith Hart. @jakeim_hart

CHRIS LEE (Knuck). Hamilton (Chicago). Film: Play Dead, Back to Lyla, Single Car Crashes. TV: "Legacies," "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" (CW); "The Chi" (Showtime); "Scream" (MTV); "S.W.A.T." (CBS); "Empire" (Fox). All glory to God. Gabby, Bryce,

Blaire and Beautiful, you're my world. @theofficialchrislee

JACKIE LEON (Jessica/Ensemble) is a New York-based performer and playwright thrilled to be making their Off-Broadway debut with The Public Theater! Credits include projects with Ars Nova, National Black Theatre, MCC Playwriting Lab, National 24 Hour Play Festival at INTAR and Catskill Mountain Shakespeare, BFA in musical theatre from Marymount Manhattan College. IG: @jackie.n.leon

KECIA LEWIS (Miss Liza Jane). Broadway: Dreamgirls, Big River, Ain't Misbehavin'. Once on This Island, The Drowsy Chaperone, Chicago, Leap of Faith, Cinderella, Children of a Lesser God. Off-Broadway: Mother Courage, The Skin of Our Teeth (Obie Award), Dessa Rose, Marie and Rosetta (Obie Award). TV: "The Good Fight," "And Just Like That," "Law & Order: SVU," "Blue Bloods," "The Blacklist."

RAECHELLE MANALO she/her (Ensemble) is honored to be making her Public Theater debut in Hell's Kitchen. Credits include performing and touring with Ballet Hispánico's BHdos, Headlights Theater, MeenMoves and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. SUNY Purchase, BFA. Endless love and gratitude to the Hell's Kitchen team, CESD and my family. Mabuhay! @raechelle_m

JADE MILAN (Understudy Ali/Jessica/ Tiny) is an alumnus of Baltimore School of the Arts and child entertainer. Credits: Disney's The Lion King (Broadway, Las Vegas). Milan furthered her career singing, touring and as part of a collaborative writing team for K. Michelle and Willow Smith. She was a contestant on Fox's "The Four."

MALEAH JOI MOON she/they (Ali) is making their professional debut leading The Public Theater's much-anticipated production of Hell's Kitchen, the new musical featuring music by powerhouse performer Alicia Keys



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and directed by Michael Greif. Recent credits: *Mystic Christmas* (upcoming), 2022 ABC/Disney Discovery Showcase. They are proudly from Franklin Township, NJ.

ONYXX NOEL she/her (Understudy Ensemble). Public Theater debut! Select credits: Porgy & Bess (Met Opera), In the Heights (Warner Bros.), Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (Netflix) and Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Endless love and gratitude for GOD, my parents, family and entire village of supporters. Thank you Camille and Alicia! IG: @onyxxnoel. Rep: CESD. Deuteronomy 28:6.

SUSAN OLIVERAS she/her (*Understudy Millie/Crystal*) is happy to return to The Public after portraying Nina Otero-Warren in *Suffs*. A native New Yorker/first-generation American whose passion for the arts grew while attending the *Fame* high school, Susan believes in the power and transformation of youth arts education. In honor of this production, she has donated to the Save the Music Foundation. @SusanOliveras

SARAH PARKER (Ensemble). Broadway: How to Dance in Ohio (associate choreographer), Camelot (associate choreographer), Fiddler on the Roof. National tour: Mob Leader in Jesus Christ Superstar. Regional: The Who's Tommy (assistant choreographer, Goodman Theatre). Dance: Camille A. Brown & Dancers. TV: "Harlem," "Modern Love," "Jesus Christ Superstar Live," "Mozart in the Jungle." Improvisation teacher and arts writer. @sfp9589

WILLIAM ROBERSON (Ensemble) is a native of Tennessee who graduated with a BFA in dance from Howard University. After moving to New York, he's worked with many dance companies and is currently dancing with Camille A. Brown & Dancers. He also was recently featured in Billy Porter's "Children" music video. He's thankful for this amazing experience.

NIKI SALUDEZ he/they (*Ensemble*) is a movement artist and educator born and raised in Virginia. He is thrilled to be making his debut at The Public in *Hell's Kitchen* alongside every artist! Thank you to my

agents at Bloc NYC, my friends and deepest gratitude to my family. This one is for you.

MARIAND TORRES she/her (Millie/Ensemble). The Public: debut. Broadway: Hadestown (Fate), Wicked (Elphaba Standby), In Transit (original Broadway cast). National tour: Wicked (Elphaba). Off-Broadway: The Great Comet of 1812. Select regional: Japan world premiere of Prince of Broadway, Lempicka (La Jolla Playhouse), Eva Peron in Evita (Kansas City Rep), Fun Home (Kansas City Rep). TV: "Law and Order: SVU," "Madam Secretary."

DONNA VIVINO (Understudy Jersey) was most recently seen on NBC's "Law & Order" as Rachel Ford. Broadway: Wicked (Elphaba), Les Misérables (original Young Cosette), Hairspray, Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me; Saturday Night Fever. Upcoming films: Family Affair, Ezra. Albums: Beautiful Dreamer, DNA. Thanks to DGRW and Lohne/Graham Management. Director: broadway-unlimited.com. TikTok/Instagram: @donnavivino. For my son Hendrix.

LAMONT WALKER II (Riq/Ensemble). The Public debut! Broadway: MJ the Musical (original Broadway cast, Jermaine Jackson). Disney's Hercules (Paper Mill Playhouse, Hercules Standby). He holds a BFA in musical theatre from Point Park University. Ase' and to God! @lamontwalkerii

OSCAR WHITNEY JR. he/him (Understudy Riq/Q/Knuck/Ray) is making his Public Theater debut and is thrilled to be here! Regional: Shrek the Musical, Into the Woods, Tarzan. International: Disney Cruise Line. Oscar would like to thank his family, Public Theater casting, Frederick, Aisha, Jordan, Ella and Ethan. For Kyle and all of my siblings. IG: @oscarwhitneyjr

ALICIA KEYS (Music, Lyrics & Arrangements). Fifteen-time Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, musician, producer, founder of Keys Soulcare, New York Times best-selling author, film/television and Broadway producer, accomplished actress, entrepreneur and powerful force in the world of activism. Since the release of her monumental 2001 album Songs in A Minor, Keys has sold

over 65 million records and over 5 billion streams, built an unparalleled repertoire of hits and accomplishments and become the #1 RIAA-certified female R&B artist of the millennium.

KRISTOFFER DIAZ (Book). The Public: Hercules, inaugural Gail Merrifield Papp Fellowship. Off-Broadway: The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Pulitzer Prize finalist). Other stage titles include Welcome to Arroyo's, The Unfortunates and Reggie Hoops. TV: "Rent: Live" on Fox. NYU alumnus and professor. New Dramatists alumnus and board member. Current Dramatists Guild Council Secretary. Husband to Joanne, father to Leo and Oscar. IG: @saymorediaz

ADAM BLACKSTONE (Music Supervisor, Orchestrations & Arrangements) is a multifaceted musician, Emmy-winning music director, Grammy-winning writer and CEO of BASSic Black Entertainment. Musical director: Alicia Keys, Justin Timberlake, Janet Jackson, Queen Latifah, Rihanna's Super Bowl Halftime Show, Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, RRHOF, NBC's "That's My Jam" and numerous other amazing specials. His debut album Legacy received a Grammy nomination for 2023.

CAMILLE A. BROWN (Choreography). Broadway: director/choreographer for colored girls... (Tony nominations: Direction of a Play, Choreography); Choir Boy (Tony, Drama Desk nominations); Once on This Island (Drama Desk, Outer Critics, Lortel nominations); A Streetcar Named Desire. The Metropolitan Opera: co-director and choreographer of Fire Shut Up in My Bones; choreographer of Porgy & Bess and Champion. Film/TV: "Harlem," Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert," "NYE in Rockefeller Center" and more. Founder and artistic director of Camille A. Brown & Dancers.

MICHAEL GREIF (Director). Notable productions at The Public and The Delacorte include The Low Road, Fucking A, Dogeaters, Giant, The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide, Romeo and Juliet, The Winter's Tale, A Bright Room Called Day, Machinal. Broadway:

Dear Evan Hansen, Next to Normal, Grey Gardens, Rent. Off-Broadway/regional: Our Lady of Kibeho, Angels in America, Landscape of the Body, A Few Stout Individuals (Signature Theatre); A Parallelogram, Make Believe (Second Stage); Far From Heaven, Spatter Pattern (Playwrights Horizons); The Notebook (Chicago Shakespeare Theater).

ROBERT BRILL (Scenic Design). The Public: Two Sisters and A Piano, The Story, A Second Chance. Broadway: Dancin'; Ain't Too Proud; Thoughts of a Colored Man; Summer: The Donna Summer Musical; Assassins; Cabaret; Jesus Christ Superstar; Guys and Dolls; Design for Living; Buried Child; and others. Three-time Tony nominee and member of design faculty at University of California San Diego. robertbrilldesign.com

DEDE AYITE (Costume Design). The Public: Merry Wives, Richard III, Toast. Select Broadway: Topdog/Underdog, Ohio State Murders, American Buffalo, A Soldier's Play, Slave Play. Off-Broadway: Atlantic, Signature, MCC, Playwrights Horizons, Signature, Lincoln Center. TV: Netflix, Comedy Central. Awards: Obie, Lortel, Henry Hewes, Helen Hayes, Jeff, Drama Desk and two Tony nominations.

NATASHA KATZ (Lighting Design) is thrilled to be back at The Public Theater where her journey into the world of lighting began, having designed the original production of *The Normal Heart* in the LuEsther Hall. She is a TDF Wendy Wasserstein Project mentor and was recently inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

GARETH OWEN (Sound Design). Select credits: Back to the Future (Olivier nomination), MJ (Tony Award), & Juliet (Tony nomination), Bad Cinderella, Summer, Come From Away (Olivier Award), End of the Rainbow (Tony nomination), Bat Out of Hell (Olivier nomination), A Little Night Music (Tony nomination), Memphis (Olivier Award), Top Hat (Olivier nomination), Merrily We Roll Along (Olivier Award).

MIA NEAL (Hair and Wig Design). Academy Award, Emmy, Drama Desk, BAFTA, Critics Choice recipient. Theatre: Shuffle

Along, Iceman Cometh, A Raisin in the Sun, West Side Story, KPOP, Ain't No Mo'. Film/TV: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Uncut Gems, Jazzman's Blues, White Noise, "Annie Live." Neal is a Gary, IN, native and attended Jackson State University and Juilliard Wig/Makeup Apprentice Program.

PETER NIGRINI (Projection Design). Broadway: Here Lies Love; MJ the Musical; Ain't Too Proud; Beetlejuice; SpongeBob SquarePants; Dear Evan Hansen; A Doll's House, Part 2; and Fela! Elsewhere: Grounded (The Public); Hans Zimmer Live; Lucia di Lammermoor and Don Giovanni (Santa Fe Opera); Grace Jones Hurricane Tour; Deep Blue Sea (Bill T. Jones); Real Enemies (BAM); and The Who's Tommy (Goodman).

CLAIRE M. KAVANAH (Prop Manager). The Public: Comedy of Errors (Mobile Unit), The Harder They Come, A Raisin in the Sun, Fat Ham, Girl From the North Country, The Michaels, Mojada, Eve's Song, Miss You Like Hell, Fire in Dreamland, Illyria, Hamlet, Gently Down the Stream, Privacy, The Gabriels, Eclipsed. Broadway props supervisor: Girl From the North Country, Fat Ham.

TOM KITT (Orchestrations & Music Consultant) is a Tony, Grammy, Emmy and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, arranger and orchestrator whose credits include Next to Normal, Almost Famous, Flying Over Sunset, Jagged Little Pill, The SpongeBob Musical, If/Then, Bring It On: The Musical, American Idiot, Head Over Heels, Everyday Rapture, High Fidelity, The Visitor, Superhero, Dave, Disney's Freaky Friday and Pitch Perfect films.

KRISTY NORTER (Music Coordinator) is a music coordinator and active woodwind doubler on Broadway. Recent music coordinator credits: Suffs and The Harder They Come (The Public); SIX (Broadway and national tours); Back to the Future; Some Like It Hot; Mr. Saturday Night; Merrily We Roll Along; New York, New York; Cyrano; Black No More.

DOMINIC FALLACARO (*Musical Director*) is a Grammy Award-winning, Tony and Emmynominated producer, composer, orchestrator

and multi-instrumentalist based in Brooklyn. Film and TV credits include *In the Heights; tick, tick...Boom!;* and "Sesame Street." Theatre credits include & *Juliet* and *Freestyle Love Supreme*. When not on stage, he's on his bike. Much love to Abby and George.

DANNY MALY (Production Stage Manager). Broadway: Prima Facie; Almost Famous; To Kill a Mockingbird; Hello, Dolly!; The Country House; Casa Valentina. New York City: Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes (Radio City Music Hall), To Kill a Mockingbird (Madison Square Garden), The DiscOasis (Central Park).

ANTHONY RIGAGLIA he/him (Stage Manager) was born and raised in New York. BFA from SUNY Purchase. Select stage manager credits: Almost Famous (Broadway), Illinois (Fisher Center at Bard). Production assistant credits: MJ the Musical (Broadway), Epiphany (Lincoln Center Theater), The Tempest (The Public Theater). Thank you to his friends and family for all the support. @anthonyrigaglia

TIFFANY N. ROBINSON she/her (Stage Manager). This Philly native holds a BFA from Howard University. Broadway: MJ the Musical, The Cher Show, Motown the Musical and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. First national tours: Motown the Musical, Memphis and Dreamgirls. Thanks Mom, RG and Flame Builders. Robinson is the owner of Tiffany's Body Bakery (tiffanysbodybakery.com).

LUISA SÁNCHEZ COLÓN she/her (Stage Manager). The Public: Comedy of Errors, The Vagrant Trilogy, cullud wattah, Mobile Unit's Summer of Joy, Romeo y Julieta, Shipwreck, The Line, UTR Festival, Mojada, White Noise, Miss You Like Hell, Oedipus El Rey. Signature Theatre: A Bright New Boise. Manhattan Theatre Club: Where the Mountain Meets the Sea. Lincoln Center Theater: The Nosebleed, Greater Clements.

Information in "Who's Who in the Cast" is provided by the production. Where opinions are expressed, they are those of the players, not necessarily those of PLAYBILL Magazine.

STAFF FOR HELL'S KITCHEN

STAFF FOR HELL'S KITCHEN
Associate DirectorMonet
Associate Choreographers Shay Bland, Kamille Upshaw
Writer's Associate 7.5 Elizabeth Lillia
Writer's Associate Zoë Elizabeth Lillis Music Assistant Stephanie Leah Evans
Rehearsal PianistJosh Ceballos
Voice & Text Coach
Vocal Coach
Associate Scenic Designers Mike Kaukl, Justin Humphres
Assistant Scenic DesignerNicholas Ponting
Associate Costume DesignerHeather Stanley
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Meriwether Snipes
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When You're Good to Lili

Lili Thomas has always wanted to play a brassy dame, now she's getting her wish in *Chicago*. By Andrew Gans

ill Thomas is not only currently making her Broadway debut in the Tony-winning Broadway revival of *Chicago* at the Ambassador Theatre, she is also making history. On September 11, —she became the first Asian-American actor to play the role of Matron "Mama" Morton in the long-running Broadway production.

The daughter of classical musicians—pianist Mihae Lee and cellist Ronald Thomas, and stepparents violist Cynthia Phelps and French horn player William Purvis—Thomas has appeared regionally in productions of Dave Malloy's *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* and *Octet.* The actor was also seen as Cynthia Murphy in the national tour of the Tony-winning *Dear Evan Hansen.* In the interview below, Thomas reveals how she's been ready to be in *Chicago* since 1997.



What was your initial reaction when you heard you would be making your Broadway debut in *Chicago*? Lili Thomas: It was a lifelong dream come true! I became completely obsessed with the soundtrack in the summer of '97. I was staying with extended family while my parents, who are classical musicians, traveled for concerts. They all remember me portraying the murderesses in "The Cell Block Tango" nightly in their Charlottesville house, where I firmly decided it was Broadway or bust. So I couldn't be happier that this is the show I'll be making my debut in!

What does it mean to you to be the first Asian-American actor to play Matron Morton on Broadway? Mama Morton is a perfect representation of the kind of characters that are so rarely ever seen played by Asian-Americans; she is tough, strong, loud, brassy, sassy, and domineering...and I cannot wait to represent those characteristics in such an iconic Broadway show!

Tell me about a job/opportunity you really wanted but didn't get. How did you get over that disappointment? The year after I graduated NYU, I made it to final callbacks for three Broadway shows all accumulating in the same week. Surely, I was to land one of them... Wrong! If the rejection wasn't hard enough, the feedback is what really wrecked me. All three shows confirmed that my singing, acting, and dancing were outstandingly what they were looking for; however, for reasons related to my looks, they went in another direction.

I looked "too ethnic." I needed to "lose 20 pounds." My body was "too voluptuous for an Asian woman." I wasn't "Asian enough." I seriously contemplated leaving the industry until some smaller regional theatres reached out with opportunities. I started to let up on the race to Broadway and indulge in that magical feeling of performing with great people in wonderful working environments. I learned that the art you get to make with the community you build in a show is where true success and fulfillment is.

Summer Vacation

Brandon Uranowitz went to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer, and thinks it's a must-visit theatre destination. By Margaret Hall

he Edinburgh Festival Fringe can be an intimidating but rewarding prospect for first-time attendees. With thousands of shows on offer across the city, it is a veritable avalanche of artistry, with just about every creative discipline on display somewhere in the ancient city.



Fresh off his Tony Award-winning run in Tom Stoppard's *Leopoldstadt*, Brandon Uranowitz leapt into the whirlwind with only a rough idea of what was in store, and an open heart. And he's already craving a return.

"I desperately want to go back!" Uranowitz laughs. "It's the most inspired I've been about theatre, and theatre-making...in several years. When we're all kids making theatre, we fall in love making scrappy shows. There's something about being at the Edinburgh Fringe that reconnects you with that inner child and that original love."

Leopoldstadt was a life-changing show for Uranowitz, and in the aftermath of the productions' Broadway run, he found himself unmoored. Then, Uranowitz went to Scotland with his partner, Zachary Prince, who was directing a show written and starring Stephen Brower called Palatable Gay Robot. Through traveling to the Fringe (which gave Leopold-

stadt playwright Stoppard his big break in 1966 for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead), Uranowitz found a renewed sense of purpose. Uranowitz wasn't the only awardwinning actor who found himself at the Fringe this year. Mandy Patinkin was there, as well as Marcia Gay Harden, Alan Cumming, Mike Birbiglia, and Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

"We are always striving for something, trying to do the thing that we love, but we can end up changing in the process," Uranowitz explains. "Walking through [Edinburgh], seeing that at every corner, there's theatre happening somewhere... I was reminded of why I got into this in the first place. Now I want to get all of my most talented friends together to go to Edinburgh and do a show on a bare set, to reconnect with that innocent love for the art form."

That's not to say that the Fringe is only life-affirming for artists themselves; it is equally inspiring for audience members. With a new artistic option around every corner, there are countless opportunities for attendees to experience something totally unexpected and life-changing. "Theatre has this uncanny ability to reflect things back at you that you didn't know about yourself," Uranowitz details. "I think by going to the Fringe, you can find bits of yourself that you didn't know were there, that you were afraid to confront. Even if you're not in a creative vocation or industry, it shows you that we are more powerful and more expansive than we are pigeonholed to be."

What was once considered intimidating has now settled in Uranowitz's heart as a must-return destination. "You just have to have the courage and the confidence and the belief in yourself to go for it," Uranowitz sighs with a smile. "I can't wait to go back."

If you're interested in booking a trip to the Edinburgh Fringe for 2024, Playbill can help. Playbill will be docking a floating hotel in the Scottish city in 2024. To learn more, visit fringeship.com.