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# DREAMGIRLS

**Feb. 21 - March 17, 2019**

## **Weathervane Playhouse**

**[WeathervanePlayhouse.com](http://WeathervanePlayhouse.com)**

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From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley ...

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members—Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch—and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works—even opera—with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weathervane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75<sup>th</sup> season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 84<sup>th</sup> season.

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Donations as of January 1, 2019



**Donations of goods and services make a difference for Weathervane Playhouse.**  
**By donating items on our wish list you can help Weathervane enhance artistic programming.**

Below is a list of items currently needed at Weathervane.

- New HD Digital Camera for Marketing (\$600)
- Internship for an Arts Administration/Education/Design student (\$1,000)
- Landscape Beautification Project for Weathervane's patio (\$1,500)
- Backstage speaker monitors for the stage (\$2,000)
- Orchestra monitors and sound support (\$3,000)
- Projector system for the stage (\$5,000)
- Website re-design (\$5,000)
- Upright Yamaha Piano (\$6,000)
- New Clearcom system for backstage/greenroom/dressing rooms/stage manager's booth (\$7,000)
- Naming the new concessions area and re-designing for food/drink service (\$10,000)

Weathervane is always looking for iPads and iPhones.

Consider donating your old phone or tablet to Weathervane.

**\*For more information contact Melanie at [mypc@weathervaneplayhouse.com](mailto:mypc@weathervaneplayhouse.com) | 330.836.2626**

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Donations are deductible as provided by law.

Donations as of January 1, 2019

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In the Harris Family Gallery  
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Dolores "Dee" Parker Morgan and Billie Holiday had one thing in common. Both were internationally acclaimed jazz vocalists. Fortunately, unlike Billie, Dee Morgan was not troubled by the demons that beset Ms. Holiday.

I thought a tribute to Dee would complement the current production, "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill" and would also illustrate that talent and fame don't always lead to devastating consequences.

Dolores "Dee" Parker Morgan was an exquisitely beautiful, exceptionally talented jazz singer who had been living and performing in Northeast Ohio since she moved here in the late 1950's. This was after her marriage to E. Gates Morgan, MD, the first African-American president of the Summit County Medical Society and had a very distinguished career in medicine.

Her early professional career included singing with the Fletcher Henderson Band, with Earl "Fatha" Hines, and most importantly, the brilliant Duke Ellington. In 1993, Dee was honored by the Smithsonian Museum of American History as one of the five surviving female vocalists of the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

She also performed at the famous Apollo Theatre, had engagements in London, England, Glasgow, Scotland, Paris, France, and worked with Nat "King" Cole. Dee also hosted a nightly radio talk show and disc-jockey broadcast from the Palm Cafe in New York, and appeared in movies and stage productions. On a personal note, my late husband, Roland Paolucci, had her perform with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra on several occasions when he was their musical director. He also accompanied her in other performances and venues.

Before marrying Dr. Gates Morgan, Dee was briefly engaged to the famous prize fighter, Joe Louis.

After moving here, she did not perform on a full-time basis. She turned her attention to family and to civic volunteerism. Her daughter is now Dr. Melodie Morgan-Minot, a psychiatrist, married to Dr. Howard Minot, a urologist. Over the years, Dolores contributed her time, talent and energy to, among others, the Akron Symphony, the Akron Art Museum, Ohio Ballet, E.J. Thomas Hall, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and the Visiting Nurse Association. She also served as President of the Medical Auxiliary of the Summit County Medical Society, the Cascade Locks Parks Association and The Dolores Parker Morgan Endowment for the School of Music at Kent State University.

Dolores Dee Parker Morgan passed away December, 17, 2018. She was 99 years old. I have tried to include as much material as possible to give everyone a sense of the scope of this remarkable woman's life. She is to be treasured by us all.

Marci Paolucci,  
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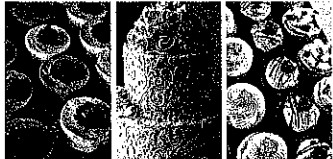
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# DREAMGIRLS

**A Musical**

Book and Lyrics by **Tom Eyrn**     Music by **Henry Krieger**

Original Broadway Production Directed and Choreographed by Michael Bennett  
Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler  
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Directed by **RICHARD MORRIS, JR.**  
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DREAMGIRLS is presented by arrangement with is presented by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK  
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**TOM EYEN** (Book) was born on August 14, 1940 in Cambridge, Ohio, as Tom Lee Eyen. He was a writer, known for *Dreamgirls* (1981) and *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman* (1976). He won Broadway's 1982 Tony Award as Best Book (Musical) for *Dreamgirls*. He was also nominated for the same show as Best Score, his lyrics with music by Henry Krieger. He died on May 26, 1991 in Palm Beach, Florida, USA.

**HENRY KRIEGER** (Music) was born in New York City as a member of the post-World War II Baby Boomers generation. Henry grew up in Westchester County, and attended Scarborough Country Day School, which had a theatre that was a replica of the Helen Hayes Theatre and where he played in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* and *Ruddigore*. Henry was known to occasionally miss a day of school to take the train to 125th Street with an accomplice to see his favorite performers at the Apollo Theatre.

While still in his twenties, Henry began composing for Off-Off-Broadway. Soon, collaborations with Tom Eyen and Broadway director/producer/choreographer Michael Bennett led to a workshop production of what was originally entitled *Big Dreams*. After several workshops, numerous rewrites an out-of-town tryout in Boston, *Dreamgirls* came to Broadway in 1981 and was nominated for thirteen Tony Awards (including Best Score) – winning six. One song, *And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going* became a top hit, and others became popular as well. Mr. Krieger also composed the scores to *The Tap Dance Kid*, (1983-85) with Robert Lorick and the acclaimed *Side Show*, (1997-98), written with Bill Russell and directed and choreographed by Robert Longbottom.

Curtis Taylor Jr. .... MARTIN RAWLS  
 Deena Jones ..... LAUREN STURDIVANT  
 Lorell Robinson..... RAVEN PLATT'S  
 Effie Melody White..... DELISA MEDLEA  
 C.C. .... KODEE WILLIAMS  
 Jimmy (James Thunder) Early ..... JONATHAN MERECHANT  
 Michelle Morris..... BONITA JENKINS  
 Marty ..... TYMIR HAMMOCK  
 Stepp Sisters ..... BONITA JENKINS, BIANCA TYUS  
 Charlene ..... RANTEA THOMPSON  
 Joann..... GABRIELLE GONZALES  
 MC (Apollo Theatre),  
 Mr. Morgan (Effie's Lawyer) ..... ANTHONY HARRIS, Jr.  
 Tiny Joe Dixon..... A. HARRIS BROWN  
 Wayne (Record Producer), Carl (Night Club Pianist),  
 Stage Manager..... OSCAR WATERS  
 Frank (Press Agent) ..... ISAAC HAAS  
 Jerry Norman (Night Club Owner), Security Guard ..... PROPHET SEAY  
 Edna Burke (Applause Reader) ..... CALA HENDERSON  
 Dwight (TV Director)..... ANTHONY HARRIS, Jr.  
 Little Albert and the Tru Tones..... OSCAR WATERS, PROPHET SEAY,  
 KYM WILLIAM, OSCAR WATERS  
 James Early Band ..... ANTHONY HARRIS, Jr., CALA HENDERSON,  
 RANTEA THOMPSON, TAYLOR NICOLE BRYAN,  
 GINA MARAFIOTE  
 Sweethearts..... TAYLOR NICOLE BRYAN, GINA MARAFIOTE  
 Tuxedos..... PROPHET SEAY, ANTHONY HARRIS, Jr., KYM WILLIAMS  
 Les Styles..... CARMEN-MARIAH REY, BIANCA TYUS, GABRIELLE GONZALES  
 Ensemble..... PROPHET SEAY, OSCAR WATERS, CARMEN-MARIAH REY,  
 TYMIR HAMMOCK, ANTHONY HARRIS, GINA MARAFIOTE,  
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 Stepp Sisters ..... KAILYN MACK, CARMEN-MARIAH REY,  
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Special thanks to





## ACT I – THE EARLY 1960s

Scene 1 .....	The Apollo Theatre
Scene 2 .....	On The Road Limbo, Three Months Later Recording Studio
Scene 3 .....	Recording Studio
Scene 4 .....	Limbo
Scene 5 .....	Limbo Into Hotel Banquet Room (Birthday Party)
Scene 6 .....	Miami Beach
Scene 7 .....	A Dressing Room, Atlantic Hotel, Miami Beach
Scene 8 .....	Cleveland, The Crystal Room
Scene 9 .....	A Television Studio
Scene 10 .....	San Francisco, Fairmont Hotel
Scene 11 .....	Las Vegas, A Dressing Room
Scene 12 .....	The Performance

## ACT II – THE EARLY 1970s

Scene 1 .....	Las Vegas, Hilton Hotel
Scene 2 .....	A Chicago Nightclub
Scene 3 .....	Vogue Magazine Photo Call
Scene 4 .....	National Democratic Fund Raiser
Scene 5 .....	Chicago, Recording Studio
Scene 6 .....	Los Angeles
Scene 7 .....	Chicago
Scene 8 .....	New York



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## ACT I

*I'm Looking for Something, Baby*..... Stepp Sisters (4), Charlene, Joann, Marty, Curtis,  
Little Albert & The Tru-Tones,  
C.C., Effie, Deena & Lorrell

*Tiny Joe Dixon*..... Tiny Joe Dixon

*Move (You're Steppin' On My Heart)*..... Effie, Deena & Lorrell

*Fake Your Way to the Top*..... Jimmy, Effie, Deena & Lorrell

*Cadillac Car*..... Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Marty & The Band (6 men)

*On the Road - Cadillac Car*..... C.C., Jimmy, Marty, Effie,  
Deena, Lorrell & Ensemble

*Movin' Out/Recording Studio*..... Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell & Ensemble

*Cadillac Car - A La Pat Boone*..... Dave & sweethearts (2) & Offstage Voices

*Steppin' to the Bad Side*..... Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Wayne, Effie,  
Deena, Lorrell & Ensemble

*Party-Party*..... Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Effie, Lorrell & Ensemble

*Baby Baby*..... Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell & Ensemble

*Family*..... Jimmy, C.C., Curtis, Effie, Deena & Lorrell

*Dreamgirls*..... Deena, Effie & Lorrell

*Reporters*..... Deena, Effie, Lorrell & Ensemble

*Heavy*..... Curtis, Deena, Effie & Lorrell

*Walkin' Down the Strip*..... Jimmy

*It's All Over*..... Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Effie,  
Deena, Lorrell & Michelle

*(And I'm Telling You) I'm Not Going*..... Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle & Ensemble

## ACT II

*Reprise: Dreamgirls*..... Jimmy, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Curtis & Ensemble

*I Am Changing*..... Effie

*I Am Changing - Vogue*..... Curtis, C.C., Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle & Ensemble

*You Are My Dream*..... Curtis & Deena

*Ain't No Party*..... Jimmy, Lorrell & Tuxedos (5 men)

*I Meant You No Harm*..... Jimmy, C.C., Deena, Lorrell & Michelle

*Rap*..... Jimmy, Frank, Curtis, Lorrell & Ensemble

*I Miss You, Old Friend*..... Marty, C.C., Effie & Les Styles (4 girls)

*One Night Only*..... Effie & Girls Ensemble

*One Night Only - Disco*..... Curtis, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle & Ensemble

*Chicago*..... C.C., Marty, Mr. Morgan, Curtis, Effie,  
Deena, Lorrell & Michelle

*Hard to Say Goodbye (My, Love)*..... Curtis, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle & Effie

There will be one 15-minute intermission

## ORCHESTRA

Ed Ridley, Keyboards

Daniel Spearman, Keyboards\*

Toussaint English, Bass

Ryan McDermott, Guitar

Patrick Wagner, Drums and Percussion

*\*for the final two performances*



**MARTIN RAWLS** (Curtis Taylor Jr.) is excited to be able to portray this character. He is 18 years old, and has been active in theatre for the past six years, and enjoys every bit of it. He is most thankful for Weathervane Playhouse for giving him his first lead role outside of his community. Martin's intentions are to one day make it to Broadway, and share his gift with the world. He wants to give a special thanks to his family for always supporting him. He leaves a special thanks to his grandmother, who recently passed away, but still helps him strive for greatness.



**LAUREN NICOLE STURDIVANT** (Deena Jones) is excited to be returning to the stage as Deena after playing Lorrell in Karamu's 2015 production of *Dreamgirls*. Acting credits include *Breath, Boom* (Prix), Jamaica Pearl in the world premiere of *The Mighty Scarab*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf* (Lady in Red), *It Ain't Nohin' but the Blues*, and *Gem of the Ocean* (Black Mary). In addition to acting, she also stage manages for various Cleveland theaters. A Hiram College (BA Music) and Kent State (M.Mus. Ed) alum, Lauren currently teaches vocal music for Streetsboro City Schools, where she directs the middle and high school vocal music program and started a music theater/drama program at the middle school. Lauren dedicates every performance to her Papi.



**RAVEN PLATTS** (Lorell Robinson) is a junior at Columbia College Chicago, where she studies musical theatre. Raven has performed at many venues throughout Cleveland and Chicago including Severance Hall, Sherwood Music School, and Cleveland Institute of Music. Performing is her passion, and there's no place she'd rather be than the stage. Follow her on Instagram @Ravenrae\_98



**DELISA MEDLEA** (Effie Melody White) was born and raised in Cleveland and is a graduate of John Hay High School. She has a bachelor's degree from The College of Wooster in Political Science with a minor in Black Studies. She has been a singer her entire life and has participated in many choirs. She traveled with the Kent State University gospel choir and has participated in multiple musical productions, including the Black History Musical at the South Euclid United Church of Christ. She has performed as a professional

singer for several private functions such as weddings and anniversaries celebrations. She was awarded the opportunity to appear in the *Black Nativity* production at the Karamu House Theater. Although this is only her second theatrical production, her life experiences have equipped for this very moment.



**KODEE WILLIAMS** (C.C.) was born 1998 in Cleveland, Ohio. Introduced to the arts during high school, he was cast in his first play as a senior playing the Tin Man in the 18th annual All-City Musical at Playhouse Square. He also just recently made his Karamu debut in Karamu's 2018 *Black Nativity*. He graduated in 2017 from Richmond Heights High School. Since then, Kodee has continued his passion for music. Kodee would like to thank his mother, father, younger brother, all of his aunts and uncles, and especially Mr. Reggie The Sias's and DT (Dr. David Thomas).



**JONATHAN MERECHANT** (Jimmy (James Thunder) Early) has been on the Weathervane stage in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), *Hair* (tribe), *Peter Pan* (Starkey), *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim), and *Hairspray* (Seaweed J. Stubbs). He made his backstage crew debut on the props crew for *Dracula*. You also may recall his many performances in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* from 2007 to 2012. Other roles include Dr. Watson in *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes* and The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, both at Weathervane. Other credits include Benjamin Coffin III in *Rent* at North Canton Playhouse, ensemble in *Ragtime* at Kent State University and ensemble in *The Producers* at Firestone High School. Jonathan currently attends The University of Akron.



**BONITA JENKINS** (Michelle Morris, Stepp Sister), a Cleveland native, is a former member of Milton Brunson's Thompson Community Choir in Chicago. She has traveled throughout the United States, performing in many churches and concert halls including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. While living in Chicago, Bonita performed throughout the Midwest. Recently she performed in the 2018 *Black Nativity* at the Karamu House. An Accounting Major graduate of the University of Phoenix, and mother of two honor college students (daughter at Louisiana State University and son at John Carroll University), Bonita has always loved singing and the theater. She says this opportunity to return to the stage is an "answer to her prayer; she is enjoying the journey."



**BIANCA TYUS** (Stepp Sister/Les Styles/Ensemble) This is Bianca's theater debut and she is thrilled to join the *Dreamgirls* cast. Bianca grew up singing in church, where she developed her love of music. Thank you, to God and my family and friends who have supported me on this journey. "Life is too short to live with regrets and life is too long not to walk in your purpose."



**RANTEA THOMPSON** (Charlene/Ensemble) is an actress, singer, dancer, producer, and director. She was born and raised in Akron, and then moved to NYC in 2007. Rantea graduated from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy with honors. She has been seen in countless roles over the span of 16 years including Sarah (*Ragtime*) and Audrey (*Little Shop of Horrors*) just to name a few. Her career started to branch out in other avenues including some featured spots on HBO, CBS, and ABC as well as a few cabarets around New York. Last year Rantea founded a company called Emir Productions. They provide professional theatre experiences for actors not based on sexual orientation, gender, or ethnicity. Rantea made her NYC directorial debut this past summer and will be producing *Brooklyn the Musical* this summer. Many thanks to her family for always being there and Josh for being the best partner in life. You can follow Rantea on Instagram @ranteat and Emir Productions @emirproductions for the latest updates and auditions.



**GABRIELLE GONZALEZ** (Joann/James Early Band/Les Styles/Ensemble) This is Gabrielle's first appearance on the Weathervane Playhouse stage. Gabrielle performed in various productions at her alma mater, Eastern Michigan University. Gabrielle is thankful to be a part of *Dreamgirls*. She hopes the cast and crew break all the legs!!



**ANTHONY HARRIS, JR.** (MC-Apollo/Mr. Morgan/Tuxedos/Ensemble) Is an Ohio native and is so excited to be making his Weathervane debut in this season's production of *Dreamgirls*. Now, in his sophomore year in college (BFA Acting), Anthony has performed in a number of shows across the country: Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (Prospero), *SHE* (Mr. Lonnice/Othelee) at Anacostia Playhouse, *Jonkonnu Stage Reading* (Winston) at Howard University, *Woman Up* (Son/Dancer) with Sonya Blakely Pro., *Siring the Waters* (Malcom X) at The United States French Embassy and *Thunder in the Index* (Joshua) at Karamu House. Anthony has grown to love the cast and crew and looks forward to working with them all again. He would also like to send a special thank you to his family, friends, and mentors for all of their love and support. AMEN.



**A. HARRIS BROWN** (Tiny Joe Dixon/Ensemble) As a theatre lover since elementary school, A. Harris continued to develop his craft throughout high school and college. For nearly 15 years, he taught speech/drama/choir for an area high school and directed their performing arts program. Currently, he serves as the Dean of Engagement and Student Supports at the Cleveland School of the Arts. For 12 years he was the talk show host for *ANOTHER LOOK TV SHOW* on Time Warner Cable. As a motivational speaker and performer, he also has had the opportunity to tour professionally throughout the country performing in various concert halls, theatres, and churches. Some of his fondest moments on stage have been at the historic and famed Karamu House Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio. A. Harris is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University and serves as a mentor through his affiliation of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



**OSCAR WATERS** (Wayne/Carl/Stage Manager/Little Albert/Ensemble) is very excited to be "Stepping to the Bad Side" in *Dreamgirls*! It's a show he can cross off his bucket list and would like to give a big thanks to Richard, along with the WP cast and crew, for making this experience an unforgettable one.



**ISAAC HAAS** (Frank/Ensemble) is a sophomore at Copley High School. He has been in two musicals at Copley: *Urinetown* and *Oklahoma!* He has been singing since the third grade, and is now a part of the concert chorale at Copley. He is very thrilled to have made it into the cast of *Dreamgirls* because he has wanted to perform at Weathervane for a long time.



**PROPHET SEAY** (Jerry Norman, Security Guard/Tru Tone/Tuxedos/Ensemble) is a Cleveland native who attended the Cleveland School of the Arts and also studied acting at the historic Karamu House, where he is currently the Technical Director. He has performed in numerous Karamu House production including: *You Can't Take It With You*, *Cut Flowers*, *Black Nativity*, *The Mighty Scarabs!*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Fences*, *Day Of Absence*, and *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God* just to name a few. He would like to thank Richard Morris for this opportunity to perform on the Weathervane Playhouse mainstage.



**TYMIR HAMMOCK** (Marty) This is Tymir's first production with Weathervane (or any theatre at that). He is excited to be doing what he loves with an amazing group of people.



**CALA HENDERSON** (Edna Burke/Stepp Sister/Ensemble) Born and raised in Cleveland, Cala Henderson graduated from Cleveland School of the Arts. She later received her BFA in Dance with Distinction from The Ohio State University, where she performed works by Crystal Michelle, Melanie Bales, Susan Hadley, Tine Salling, Ann Clemmensen and many others. Cala was a member of Danco II, The Philadelphia Dance Company's second company in Philadelphia, where she performed various works. Ms. Henderson served as Constellation Schools: Westside Community

School of the Arts' director of dance for 3 years. She was also an artist in residence at Cleveland School of the Arts before returning to school and becoming a nurse! Currently, Cala is pursuing her BSN degree and teaching dance around the city of Cleveland.



**KYM WILLIAMS** (James Early Band/Tuxedos/Ensemble) has been inspired by art since his first time visiting Karamu House in second grade. He was on a field trip to see a play and was startled by the freedom expressed on stage in a room full of people. Living amongst a society that has made him feel such joy should be suppressed, he saw acting as a way to exist. Dealing with social anxiety, Kym took his first class seven years ago to choose to battle it. Along the way, he's discovered new parts of himself he didn't know he had or what he already possessed. "With art I battle with anxiety, displaying it among society? I battle to exist."



**KAILYN MACK** (James Early Band/Tru Tones/Stepp Sister/Ensemble) is a Cleveland native and alumni of Cleveland School of the Arts, where she studied as a dance major. Kailyn studied & received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance from Wright State University. While in college, she was a member of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's pre-professional company. She danced in numerous programs and concerts, worked with different choreographers and helped with community workshops at local schools and recreation centers, all while being a student. Life for her after college consists of growing, learning, and pursuing life as a professional dancer and artist. Kailyn teaches in the Cleveland community at various different places as she continues to put her degree to good use. Her career goals are to work professionally in as many fields of dance and entertainment as possible. She most recently made her debut in Karamu's *Black Nativity* starring as Mary. Kailyn is excited for what's in store for her future.



**GINA MARAFIOTTE** (Sweetheart/Ensemble) This is Gina's first production with Weathervane Playhouse and she is excited to be a part of the ensemble as well as a "Sweetheart" in *Dreamgirls*! She is a recent Youngstown State University graduate with her master's degree in counseling but has always been a fan of the theater, singing, and dancing. Gina would like to thank Richard and everyone at Weathervane for the opportunity to be a part of this production. Gina has a recent history

with theater including her role in the ensemble of *The Rocky Horror Show* (Millennial Theater Company) and has worked behind the scenes with hair and makeup, costumes, and choreography in multiple productions including *South Pacific*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *West Side Story*.



**CARMEN-MARIAH REY** (Les Styles/Ensemble/Stepp Sister) is excited to participate in her first performance at Weathervane. Carmen can most recently be recognized as Sophie/Mrs. Greer in *Annie* at The Fine Arts Association in Willoughby and in the ensemble of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Near West Theatre in Cleveland. Locally, Carmen has appeared on the stages of Antic Theatre and Our Lady of the Elms High School. Carmen would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her through this process, and you, our wonderful audience, for coming to support the show!

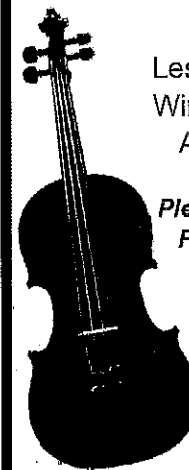


**TAYLOR NICOLE BRYAN** (Ensemble) is filled with gratitude to be back on the stage after a brief hiatus. Taylor Nicole's credits include *CATS* (Rumpleteazer), *A Chorus Line* (Kristine) and *Hair* (Black Boys). All my love to my tribe- whose love knows no bound.

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**RICHARD MORRIS, JR.** (Director/Scenic Designer/Technical Director) most recently directed *Holes* and *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* here at Weathervane Playhouse. Some of his other directorial credits include *Leap of Faith*, *Black Nativity*, *Christmas is Commin Uptown*, *The Government Inspector*, *Raisin*, *Dracula*, *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *Purlie Victorious*, *The Jungle Book*, *Seussical*, *Willie Wonka*, *Birds of a Feather*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Into the Woods*, *The Aristocats Jr.*, *Goldilocks on Trial*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Xanadu*, *The Trials and Tribulations of Staggerlee Booker T Brown*, and *The Submarine Steeple*. For 10 years, he was Production Director for the Karamu Arts Summer Camp, where he introduced many teens and young adults to the art of theatrical performance. For 19 years he also served as Technical Director/Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer for Karamu Performing Arts Theatre. He has designed over 149 Productions. In 2011 he was the recipient of the National Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design (National Black Theatre Festival) and was keynote speaker at Alabama State University on "African Americans in Scenic Design." Mr. Morris was also received the 2001 Actors Guild Award for his Scenic/Lighting design for *Riff Raff* and *Treemonisha*. In 2008 he also won *Scene Magazine's* "Best Scenic Design" for *Caroline, or Change*. He has designed for many theaters in the Northeast Ohio area, such as Ensemble Theatre, Dobama, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cuyahoga Community College, Oberlin College Theatre, Firestone Theatre and Jubar Productions, just to name a few. He is a graduate of Kent State University. In December 2016, he joined Weathervane's professional staff as Technical Director/Resident Scenic Designer. Richard is currently working on a new musical production, *Two Boys from Glenville*, the story of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman.



**ED RIDLEY** (Musical Director) Recent productions include: *Black Nativity*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Passing Strange*, *Lady Day At Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Simply Simone: The Music of Nina Simone*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Sister Act*, *Blues In The Night*, *The Wiz*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Leap of Faith*, *It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*, *The Color Purple*, *Caroline or Change*, *Crowns*, *Mahalia*, *The Piano Lesson*, and *Love, Janis*. Ed serves as music director for the Christian Fellowship Center Church

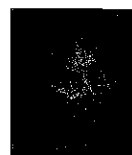
and is also on the music faculty at Cuyahoga Community College. His versatility and talent as a performer have allowed him to accompany such great artists as Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Walter Hawkins, Jon Hendricks, and Clark Terry.



**NEHEMIAH SPENCER** (Choreographer) is a native of Cleveland, where he started training in dance at The Cleveland School of the Arts (CSA). Through overcoming life's tough battles, Nehemiah stayed focused and followed his dreams to attend The Juilliard School in New York City. There earned his Bachelors in Fine Arts, in dance, and performed works by Paul Taylor, Larry Keigwin, Darrell Grand Moultrie. He capped off his final year performing the renowned solo work of Talley Beatty, *Mourner's Bench*. Upon graduating, Nehemiah performed the lead dance role as "The Funky Monkey" in the Broadway production of *The Wiz*, directed by Tony Award-winning choreographer George Faison. He has also traveled the world as a principal dancer with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, then as a principal with Abraham.in.Motion, under the direction of Kyle Abraham, a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius Grant." Nehemiah can also be seen in the Jill Scott video *Back Together*. He now spends his time giving back to his alma mater CSA, as well as teaching at other arts-enriching studios around the city. Nehemiah has been recognized for his service around the community by Ohio's former Governor, John R. Kasich, *Dance Teacher*, and *Dance Magazine*. Nehemiah looks to continue to share his love for dance and teaching all of the world and use its gift as an instrument to move the world forward.



**LOGAN CHAPMAN** (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to be a part of this wonderful production with this amazing cast! He got his start in theater at Weathervane, where he has participated in many productions; such as *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka* (The Candy Man), and *A Christmas Carol: the Musical* (Fred Anderson). He has also worked backstage many times as many different positions; such as spot operator, fly operator, light board operator, set mover, and Assistant Stage Manager. He goes to Firestone CLC, where he is in the Symphonic Choir; Men's Chorus, and Madrigals group. He has also played trombone since the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and is currently in Firestone's Wind Ensemble, and Marching Band. He is also in his first year playing trombone in the Contemporary Youth Orchestra out of Cleveland.



**PAMELA PARKS COSTA** (Properties Co-Designer) most recently designed last season's *Into the Woods*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *Talking With...*, and *Young Frankenstein*. Her properties design credits include *Red*, the annual 8x10 TheatreFest, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Hamlet*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Flyin' West*, *Annie*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Art of Deduction*, *Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes*, *Quilters* and *Seussical: the Musical*.



**JASON BRYAN MAURER** (Stage Manager) is happy to be working with the talented Cast of *Dreamgirls*. This multiple Chanticleer Award-winner has stage managed show such as *Cinderella*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and this season's opening show *Bye Bye Birdie*. Jason enjoys his time here at Weathervane working in the shop and whatever else is needed. Jason's favorite theater saying is "The show must go on!" and he takes that very seriously. Sit back and enjoy.



**CHRISTOPHER PEPE** (Sound Designer) has been working with live sound for over 30 years. Projects include audio for events with artists Sandra Joseph (from the Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*) and Graham Nash. He is taking his own production company into its tenth year and currently preparing for a very exciting 2019 season. Christopher had the wonderful experience of designing sound for The All-City Musical at Akron Civic Theatre for productions of *Hairspray*, *Ragtime*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*, as well as a full concert production for Jefferson Starship. He is very much at home designing sound at Weathervane, including productions of *Annie*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Joseph*, *Dracula*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Spamalot*, *Red*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Doubt*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Mostly, he is looking for any excuse to work with his amazing wife...



**ROB PECK** (Lighting Designer) has worked as a technical director, production manager, stage manager, sound, lighting and scenic designer as well as a properties master. He has worked for The Cleveland Play House, Ensemble Theatre Company, Dobama, Cleveland Public Theatre and Opera Cleveland as well as serving as the Technical

Director and Resident Designer for Hathaway Brown School and also had the pleasure of serving as an artist in residence at The Cleveland School of the Arts.



**LAURA NIEHAUS** (Scenic Artist) is excited to join the creative team of *Dreamgirls*. Laura last designed props for Weathervane's most recent production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She was last seen on stage in Weathervane's marvelous production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Laura would like to sincerely thank, Scott, Melanie, and everyone at Weathervane who has welcomed her into this crazy, wondrous family and helped make this theater her second home. Laura would also like to thank her mom and dad for always nurturing her creativity, allowing her to dream new and exciting things, supporting her through every bump in the road, and also for giving her the confidence to say "I can do that" and the work ethic to make it happen. She loves you all and all the color you bring to her life!



**JASEN J. SMITH** (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions. As a co-designer, he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Alliance for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



**KATHY KOHL** (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in business management from Aurora University. She began her theater career at Weathervane as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction, and props crews, joining the professional staff in 2002. She also served for seven years as master carpenter and master painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was the scenic designer for our productions of *It's Only a Play*, *The Flick*, and the co-designer of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In 2017, she received the Producer's Award, and in 2015, she was a recipient of



## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

The Trustees Award. She holds three Chanticleer awards for her properties designs for *Enchanted April*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. She lives with her husband Doug, in West Akron where they raised three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett, Maise, and Greyson.



**KELLIE ROSSINI** (Master Electrician) has been with Weathervane since October of 2016 as the Master Electrician. She designed lights for *The Santaland Diaries* in 2016, *A Kid Like Jake* in 2017, *Talking With...* in 2017, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* in 2018 as well as the 2017 and 2018 8x10 TheatreFest. She has been a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local #48 since 1999 and has worked for The Canton Palace Theatre, Verb Ballets, The Manchester Dance Ensemble, Martell School of Dance, Ohio Ballet, The University of Akron Dance Department

and The Dance Institute at the University of Akron. She received her first bachelor's degree in technical theatre from Kent State University and her second in 2018 in Accounting.



**ALAN COSTA** (Properties Co-Designer) is excited to be working on props for *Dreamgirls* after most recently designing the sets for *Almost, Maine* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Before that, he served as the stage manager for *Doubt: A Parable*, *Red* and the assistant stage manager for *Peter and the Starcatcher* and was last seen on our stage as President Roosevelt in *Annie*. He also served as properties co-designer on our productions of *Young Frankenstein* and *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes*. Outside of his theatrical pursuits, he enjoys baseball and its storied history. Retired after 40-plus years of service with FirstEnergy, he and his wife, Pamela Parks Costa, live in Akron. They are proud parents to two children and grandparents to four.



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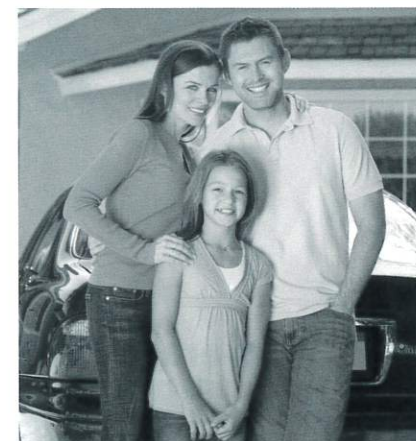
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