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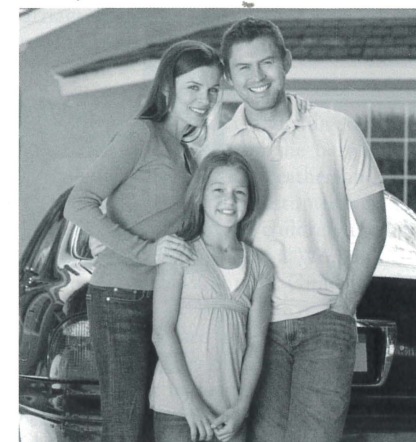


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From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley ...

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 75th season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 83rd season.


MISSION STATEMENT

Weathervane Playhouse produces high-quality live theater with volunteer artists, designers, and technicians under professional direction, provides education and training in theater arts and appreciation, and engages and entertains its audience and constituents to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

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Dolores "Dee" Parker Morgan

Local and Internationally Acclaimed Jazz Vocalist

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.

Now, 98 years old and retired, Dolores "Dee" Parker Morgan is an exquisitely beautiful, exceptionally talented jazz singer who has 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 has 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.

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, Gallery Curator

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Please note that this list is for Volunteer hours worked between 11/1/2017 – 12/1/2017

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Weathervane Playhouse
presents

2017/2018
MAINSTAGE SERIES

LADY DAY
at Emerson's Bar and Grill

A musical drama by
Lanie Robertson

Directed by **TERRENCE SPIVEY**

Musical Director
ED RIDLEY, JR.

Stage Manager
JASON BRYAN MAURER

Properties Designer
BARBARA TROTTER

Lighting Designer
AYRON LORD

Costume Designer
LOREN "COCO" MAYER

Scenic Designer/Technical Director
RICHARD MORRIS, JR.

Sound Designer
HAZEN TOBAR

Assistant Technical Director
KATHY KOHL

LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Dr. Lanie Douglas Robertson is an American playwright, actor, and educator. Born in Knoxville, Iowa in 1936, Robertson attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas from 1955 to 1957. He attended the Gene Frankel Theatre Workshop from 1959 to 1963 before receiving his M.A. from Temple University in 1969. His first production, *The Runneth Over Cup*, was produced at the University of Kansas during his attendance there in 1957. Many of his plays were produced in Philadelphia, where he also taught literature and play-writing at the Philadelphia College of Art during the 1970s.

Robertson has written over 30 plays for regional and Off-Broadway theater. The subject matter of his work reflects his interest in historical figures and history in general. *The Insanity of Mary Girard* (1976), *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (1984), *Nasty Little Secrets* (1985), *Alfred Stieglitz Loves O'Keefe* (1988), and *Nobody Lonesome for Me* (1995) are among his better-known works. His plays have been produced in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, and in towns in Virginia, Alaska, and Maine. Internationally, his work has been produced in Canada, England, France, Australia, and Japan.

As of 2009, Robertson has worked for Abram's Artists Agency.

CAST LIST

Billie Holiday MARISSA NICOLE DAVIS
Jimmy Powers ED RIDLEY, JR.

SETTING

PLACE: The action of the play transpires in a small bar in south Philadelphia. Although the bar is presently closed and abandoned, the building still stands on the corner of Fiftieth & Bainbridge Streets.

TIME: The time of the play is about midnight of a night in March, 1959. There is no passage of time except that of the performance. It is obviously late in the evening, and it is equally late in Billie Holiday's life. Four months from now she will die of cirrhosis and heart failure in a hospital in Harlem on Friday, 17 July 1959.

The show will be performed without an intermission.



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(music and lyrics by Buddy Johnson)

When a Woman Loves a Man
(music by Bernie Hanighen and Gordon Jenkins; lyrics by Johnny Mercer)

What a Little Moonlight Can Do
(music and lyrics by Harry Woods)

Crazy He Calls Me
(music by Carl Sigman; lyrics by Bob Russell)

Gimme a Pigfoot (And a Bottle of Beer)
(music and lyrics by Wesley Wilson)

Baby Doll

God Bless the Child
(music and lyrics by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog, Jr.)

Foolin' Myself
(music and lyrics by Jack Lawrence and Peter Tinturin)

Somebody's on My Mind
(music and lyrics by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog, Jr.)

Easy Livin'
(music and lyrics by Ralph Rainger and Leo Robin)

Strange Fruit
(music and lyrics by Abel Meeropol)

Blues Break
T'ain't Nobody's Business If I Do
(music and lyrics by Porter Grainger and Everett Robbins)

Don't Explain
(music and lyrics by Arthur Herzog, Jr. and Billie Holiday)

What a Little Moonlight Can Do (Reprise)
(music and lyrics by Harry Woods)

Deep Song
(music and lyrics by George Cory and Douglass Cross)



MARISSA NICOLE DAVIS
(Billie Holiday) is in her fourth year as a theatre performance major at Kent State University. She most recently appeared at Weathervane in *Hairspray*. She loves music and theatre because artists are able to express themselves in countless ways; an actor can be a different person each day, each week, each performance. She would like to thank the director, Terrence Spivey, for this opportunity.



ED RIDLEY, JR. (Musical Director/Jimmy Powers) Ed's recent productions include: *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*, *Cuttin' Up*, *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.



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TERRENCE SPIVEY (Director) is Founding Director of Powerful Long Ladder Ensemble Company, for which he recently directed James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner* in collaboration with Holy Trinity

Cultural Arts Center (where the company is in residence in Cleveland). In addition, he currently serves as artistic associate for Shore Cultural Centre. Spivey was artistic director of Karamu House for over twelve years (2003-2016). During his artistic administration, Spivey programmed over 70-plus productions and directed over twenty five, winning numerous awards for the historical institution. His notable works as director were the Thomas Gibbon trilogy *Bee-luther-hatchee*, *Permanent Collection*, *A House With No Walls*, Ntozaka Shange's for *colored girls who considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf*, Gavin Lawrence *Cut Flowers*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, Spivey's adaptation of James Weldon Johnson's *God's Trombones*, Jean Genet's *The Blacks*, and *The Wiz* just to name a few. He also directed and collaborated with numerous theatres and festivals throughout Northeast Ohio; Wilson's *Fences* at Weathervane Playhouse, and Howard Sackler's *The Great White Hope* at Karamu/Ensemble Theatre/Weathervane, Anthol Fugard's, *Master Harold and the Boys* at CSU and *God's Trombones* at Akron Civic Theatre. He served as Director in Residence for Kent State Pan African Studies during the 2013-2014 season directing John Henry Redwood's *No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs* and for *colored girls....* Since his departure from Karamu in 2016, he directed one of *The Plain Dealer's* 2016 Top 10 plays, Robert O' Hara's *Bootycandy* at convergence-continuum, the award winning, nationally acclaimed *Objectively/Reasonable: A Community Response to the Shooting of Tamir Rice, 11/22/14* at Playwrights Local, the world premiere of Peter Lawson Jones' *The Bloodless Jungle* at Ensemble Theatre, and Kia Corthron's *Breathe, Boom* at John Carroll University, Wilson's *Radio Golf* at Ensemble and Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins' *Neighbors* at convergence-continuum. He directed readings of Wilson's autobiographical *How I Learned What I Learned* and the first four plays of Wilson's American Century Cycle at Shore courtesy of the Wilson Estate. His next directing project will be the Ohio Premiere of Dael Orlandersmith's solo piece *Black and Blue*

Boys/Broken Men presented by Powerful Long Ladder and Holy Trinity in March. Spivey has appeared in *Cleveland Magazine*, *Black Mask*, *BackStage*, *Ebony*, *Artist and Influences* and *American Theatre*. He served as board member for Community Partnership for Arts and Culture and Cleveland Arts Prize. He is on the advisory board for Borderlight Festival and convergence-continuum in Cleveland, board member for AUDELCO in NYC, a member of Black Theatre Network and an elected member of National Theatre Conference. In 2011. He was given a proclamation by the Mayor and the City of Cleveland for his artistic contributions. Karamu was honored the 2013 AUDELCO Award for Repertory Company of the Year. He was recently selected as *Cleveland Scene's* Best Director for 2017. Spivey is excited to be back again with the Weathervane family in bringing one our most iconic and influential figures of the 20th century to the stage. "Thank you, Melanie."



JASON BRYAN MAURER

(Stage Manager) is making a return to Weathervane after a long hiatus. Jason is a multiple Chanticleer Award winner, including one for *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Jason has stage managed *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and others. Jayson has played Scrooge in *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, designed the sound for *Next Fall*, was the Lighting Designer for *Three Tall Women*, and directed the Ohio premiere of *Dear Harvey*.



BARBARA TROTTER

(Properties Designer) got her start backstage working on the props crew. She co-designed Props for *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and *August: Osage County*; costumes for *Proof*, *The Nerd*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Lighting for *String of Pearls*. She was Stage Manager for *Putting It Together*, *Intimate Apparel* and *Ahmal and the Night Visitors*. Barbie has appeared on Weathervane's stage in *Rabbit Hole*, *The Music Man*, *Uncle Vanya*, and most recently as Miss Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. This past summer, she enjoyed being part of the ensemble in Rubber City Theatre's production of *Pippin*.



AYRON LORD (Lighting Designer) is a recent addition to the Weathervane Playhouse volunteer lineup and began assisting with tech and backstage this past October. Previously,

Ayron has both performed and assisted with almost every aspect of theater as a member of the Ariel Theater Players and the Riverby Theater Guild both based out of Gallipolis, Ohio. Ayron is a recent graduate of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio with a major in Computer Engineering and has put his skills and knowledge to use for the Greater Cleveland area. He looks forward to greatly improving his skills here at Weathervane Playhouse and hopes that he will be able to continue supporting the magic of theater at this venue and the Akron area for quite some time.



HAZEN TOBAR

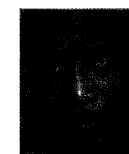
(Sound Designer) has spent a lot of time with Weathervane this season, most recently as sound designer for *It's Only a Play* and last season's *The Flick*. Other sound design credits include *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Clybourne Park*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Hair*. He previously designed sound for *Oklahoma!* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and he ran the board for *Unnecessary Farce*, *Hamlet*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *Uncle Vanya* and *The Music Man*. Hazen recently completed a B.A. in Audio Recording.



LOREN "COCO" MAYER

(Costume Designer) is very proud to have returned to her hometown of Akron, Ohio for her third costume design project for Weathervane Playhouse! This Buchtel Griffin attained her Master Degree in costume design for Theater from CCM at the University of Cincinnati and has worked in Regional Theater in venues such as The Goodman Theatre in Chicago. She currently is teaching advanced sewing to Fashion and Theater students at Kent State University. Her most magical moment was being a Costumer for Creative Entertainment at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida for over 18 years! Coco is very happy to have been chosen as a

2017 winner of a Chanticleer for her Co-Costume Design of *Hairspray*. She loves and travels with her devoted Puggle, Princess Bella, who is always by her side for creative endeavors in Costume Shops across the United States.



RICHARD MORRIS, JR.

(Scenic Designer/Technical Director) most recently directed *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* here at Weathervane Playhouse.

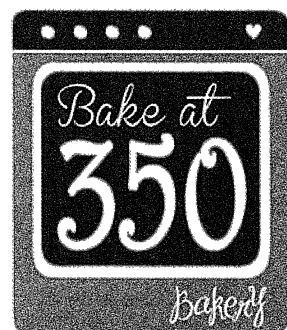
Some of his other directorial credits include *Leap of Faith*, *Black Nativity*, *Christmas is Commin Uptown*, *The Government Inspector*, *Raisin*, *Dracula*, *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *Purlie Victorious*, *The Jungle Book*, *Seussical*, *Willie Wonka*, *Birds of a Feather*, *101 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 Steetcar*. 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 the past 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 American 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, 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 School of Music and Theatre. Last December 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.



KELLIE ROSSINI (Master Electrician) has been with Weathervane since October of 2016 as the Master Electrician. She designed lights for this season's *Talking With...*, *The Santaland Diaries* in 2016, and *A Kid Like Jake* in 2017. 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 is currently working on a second in Accounting.



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 painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was scenic co-designer for our productions of *It's Only a Play*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Trustee Award and 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 their three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett and Maisie.



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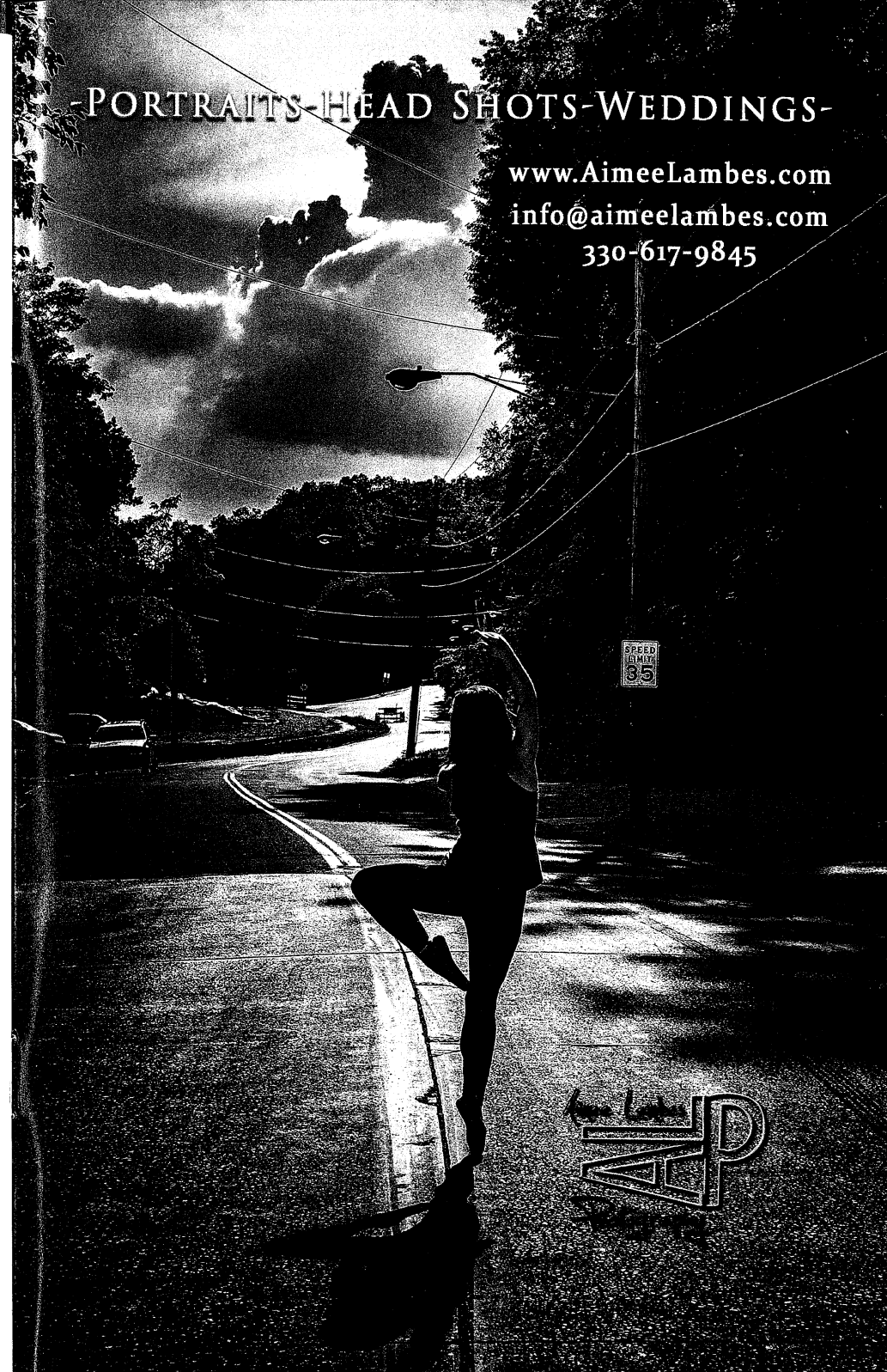
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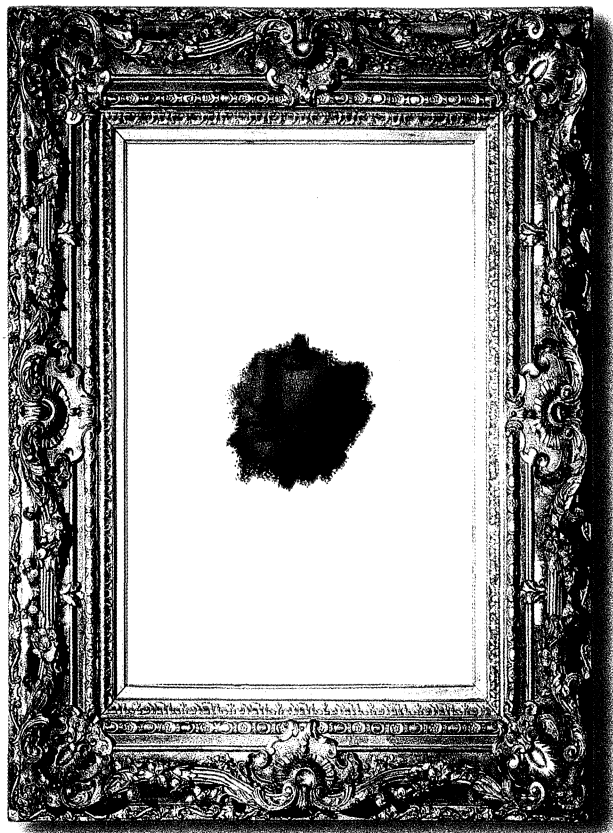
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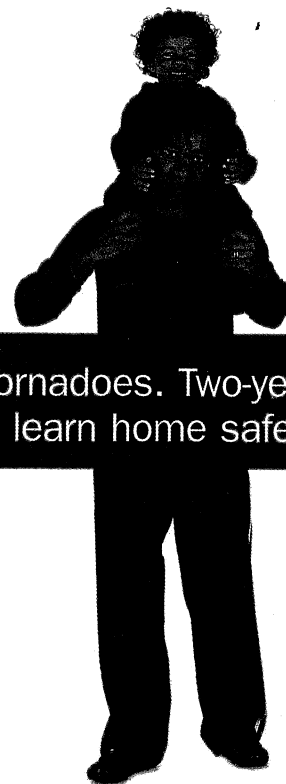


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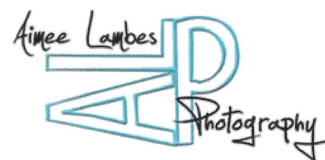
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Bradford McGhee

Set Construction Crew

Bob Brauning	Chris Capron
Ralph Cooley	Dave Deming
Dale Gilbert	Ron Hays
Kathy Kohl	Joshua T. Larkin
Jason Bryan Maurer	Richard Morris, Jr.

Costume Construction Crew

Jasen J. Smith	Millie Keyser
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Costume Organizational Crew

Jenny Banker	Yvonne Chapman
Diane Geul	Melanie Hauer
Linda Jarvis	
Joanna Mack	

Lighting Crew

Logan Chapman	Ken Hardman
Tom Ligget	Ayron Lord

Sound Operators

Tiffany Bird	Mike Chapman
Anthony Kenney	Platt Safford

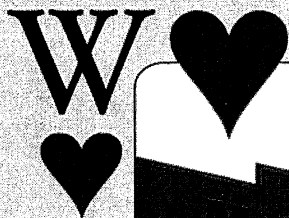
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Anthony Kenney	Ayron Lord
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