

BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY

JULIANNE BOYD, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

AND
Jeffrey Davis and Michael Miller
PRESENT

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW

CONCEIVED BY

Richard Maltby, Jr. and Murray Horwitz

CREATED AND ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY

Richard Maltby, Jr.

ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY AND MUSICAL STAGING BY

Arthur Faria

MUSICAL ADAPTATIONS, ORCHESTRATIONS & ARRANGEMENTS BY

Luther Henderson

VOCAL & MUSICAL CONCEPTS BY

Jeffrey Gutcheon

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS BY

Jeffrey Gutcheon & William Elliott

FEATURING

**Allison Blackwell Arnold Harper II Jarvis B. Manning, Jr.
Anastacia McCleskey Maiesha McQueen**

UNDERSTUDIES

Eddie Dean Courtney C. Long

SCENIC DESIGNER

Raul Abrego

COSTUME DESIGNER

Oana Botez

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Tom Ontiveros

SOUND DESIGNER

Leon Rothenberg

WIG DESIGNERS

The Wig Associates

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

Darius Barnes

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Darlene Miyakawa

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Alexis Nalbandian

CASTING

**Pat McCorkle, CSA;
Rebecca Weiss**

BERKSHIRES PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

Charlie Siedenburg

NATIONAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES

The Press Room

DIGITAL ADVERTISING

Capacity Interactive

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY

Kwinton Gray

CHOREOGRAPHED & DIRECTED BY

Jeffrey L. Page

SPONSORED IN PART BY

Hermine Drezner, Susan and David Lombard, Roz and Charles Stuzin

Co-production with Geva Theatre Center, Rochester, New York

Originally produced by The Manhattan Theatre Club

Originally produced on Broadway by Emanuel Azenberg,

Dasha Epstein, The Shubert Organization, Jane Gaynor & Ron Dante

Ain't Misbehavin' is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

**BOYD-QUINSON STAGE
JUNE 16-JULY 9, 2022**

MC Mass
Cultural
Council

THE SHUBERT
FOUNDATION

SETTING

Act I: The Savoy Ballroom, Harlem’s legendary dance hall where Black singers performed for a Black audience

Act II: Leaving Harlem and trying to mix with the Hoity-Toity

CAST

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Allison Blackwell* Arnold Harper II* Jarvis B. Manning, Jr.*
Anastacia McCleskey* Maiesha McQueen*

UNDERSTUDIES

Eddie Dean Courtney C. Long

BAND

Conductor/Piano Kwinton Gray
Trumpet Kazunori Tanaka
Trombone..... Phil Joseph
Reeds DeVaughn Durham, Jonathan Mones
Bass KJ Gray
Percussion..... Jackie Whitmill

STAFF

Production Stage Manager..... Darlene Miyakawa*
Assistant Stage Manager Alexis Nalbandian*
Dance Captain..... Anastacia McCleskey*
Assistant Musical Director Geno Young
Musical Consultant..... David Freeman Coleman
Assistant Scenic Designer..... Yi-Hsuan (Ant) Ma
Assistant Costume Designer Caroline Tyson
Assistant Lighting Designer Jennifer Gonzalez
Associate Sound Designer Ien DeNio
Associate Wig Designer Shereese Lynn-Cromartie
Boyd-Quinson Head Electrician/Board Operator Jessie Hamilton
Boyd-Quinson Sound Engineer/Board Operator..... Delaney Bray
Sound Technician John Hoag
Boyd-Quinson Wardrobe Supervisor..... Caitie Martin
Wardrobe Technicians Cortnei Edwards, Emily Knapp
Production Assistant Stephanie Brown
Boyd-Quinson Crew Chief..... Quinn Burnell
Follow Spot Operators Sauniq Lawson, David Slice



*Actors and Stage Managers are members of Actors' Equity Association.



The Director-Choreographer is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATES TO THE SEASON PLAYBILL

Associate House Manager Alex Karpinski
Associate Technical Director Benjamin Reading
Sound Technician John Hoag
Properties Supervisor Faith Boucher
St. Germain Wardrobe Supervisor Charlie Barnett IV

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue.....	Fats Waller
Ain't Misbehavin'	Company
Lookin' Good but Feelin' Bad	Company
'T ain't Nobody's Biz-ness if I Do.....	Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. & Company
Honeysuckle Rose	Arnold Harper II & Maiesha McQueen
Squeeze Me	Allison Blackwell
Handful of Keys.....	Company
I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling.....	Maiesha McQueen & Company
How Ya Baby.....	Jarvis B. Manning, Jr., Anastacia McCleskey & Company
Jitterbug Waltz	Company
Ladies Who Sing with the Band	Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. & Arnold Harper II
Yacht Club Swing.....	Anastacia McCleskey
When the Nylons Bloom Again... ..	Allison Blackwell, Anastacia McCleskey & Maiesha McQueen
Cash for Your Trash	Maiesha McQueen
Off-Time	Company
The Joint is Jumpin'.....	Company

— INTERMISSION —

ACT II

Entr'acte	Band
Spreadin' Rhythm Around	Company
Lounging at the Waldorf.....	Arnold Harper II, Maiesha McQueen, Allison Blackwell & Anastacia McCleskey
The Viper's Drag/The Reefer Song	Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. & Company
Mean to Me.....	Maiesha McQueen
Your Feet's Too Big	Arnold Harper II
That Ain't Right.....	Allison Blackwell, Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. & Company
Keepin' Out of Mischief Now	Anastacia McCleskey
Find Out What They Like	Maiesha McQueen & Allison Blackwell
Fat and Greasy	Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. & Arnold Harper II
Black and Blue	Company
I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter	Arnold Harper II
Two Sleepy People.....	Allison Blackwell & Arnold Harper II
I've Got my Fingers Crossed.....	Anastacia McCleskey, Allison Blackwell & Arnold Harper II
I Can't Give You Anything but Love.....	Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. & Anastacia McCleskey
It's a Sin to Tell a Lie.....	Maiesha McQueen & Company
Honeysuckle Band.....	Company
Ain't Misbehavin' (Reprise).....	Company

CAST



ALLISON BLACKWELL is thrilled to be returning to BSC after appearing in *Who Could Ask For Anything More? The Songs of George Gershwin* last summer. BSC: *Ragtime* (Sarah's Friend). Broadway: *A Night With Janis Joplin* (Aretha Franklin), *Pretty Woman: The Musical* (Violetta), *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *The Lion King*. Favorite roles include Fantine in *Les Misérables*, Dotty/Washing Machine in *Caroline, or Change*, Woman #1 in *And the World Goes 'Round*, Sister Sophia in *The Sound of Music* and Mrs. Segstrom in *A Little Night Music*.

When Ms. Blackwell is not doing theatre, she can be seen performing as a guest artist with orchestras across the country or performing her solo show entitled *First You Dream*. Spelman College B.A and The Boston Conservatory. AllisonBlackwell.com



ARNOLD HARPER II is overjoyed to be making his Barrington Stage debut. A proud Baltimore native. He just wants to serve the people with love through storytelling. Fav credits: Playhouse On Park: *Five Guys Named Moe*; ACT of CT: Fred in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, Audrey II/Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Ogunquit Playhouse: Simon Sr. in *Kinky Boots*; Eat Moe in *Five Guys Named Moe*. He wants to thank his family, friends and The Hell's Kitchen Agency for their support! HI MOM! IG: @arnoldharperii



JARVIS B. MANNING, JR. A native of Houston, TX. Graduate of HSPVA, AMDA NY. An Original Broadway Cast and world premiere cast member of *Ain't Too Proud* (Al Bryant and Norman Whitfield). Jarvis is also involved heavily in Arts in Education (co-founder of Staged Masterclasses), and aims to help bridge the gap between underserved communities and quality lessons in the arts. Other Favorite Credits: TV/Film: *Law & Order 2022 Revamp* (Andre Walker), *The Purgatory of Ghost and Goblin* (Del). Broadway: *Motown: The Musical* (Jackie Wilson, Rick James), *Ain't Too Proud* (David Ruffin understudy). This show is dedicated to Ma', Da', Shay, Chubby C, Journey Journ and his angels Rev. Holiday and Barbs. Thank you God! @brainart Chi Talent Management.



ANASTACIA MCCLESKEY is excited to return to BSC, previously seen as Claudine Machine/Janessa in *Broadway Bounty Hunter*. Recently played Jo in the world premiere of *Afterwords the Musical* at The 5th Ave Theatre, on Broadway in *Waitress* (Nurse Norma) and the revival of *Caroline, or Change* (Dotty). She recurs on *New Amsterdam* (Dr. Phylicia Elder), *The Good Fight* (Opal) and appeared in *Annie Live* (Sophie, Mrs. Greer, Perkins). She has been featured in seven Broadway hits, one West End hit, Off Broadway hits, and sung with/provided back-up vocals for many artists. Nominations: Helen Hayes Award, Alliance Award and an Audelco Award. Thank you God.



MAIESHA MCQUEEN, who is excited to be making her Barrington Stage debut, was last seen on Broadway starring alongside Sara Bareilles in the hit musical *Waitress*. Shortly after, she performed to sold-out audiences, embodying the life and music of Mahalia Jackson. Maiesha has traveled the globe as co-founder and musical composer of the touring company Progress Theatre, whose work has been presented at such spaces as The Public Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Apollo Theatre and the World Music Festival in Amsterdam. Other notable theatre credits include: *Fannie* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Until the Flood* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *The Color Purple*, *His Eye is*

on the Sparrow, *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Portland Center Stage); *Da Kink In My Hair* (Horizon Theatre); *Sirens of Song* (Milwaukee Rep); *Chasin' Dem Blues, East Texas Hotlinks* (True Colors Theatre). Proud graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Special thanks to The Hybrid Agency. @maieshamcqueen MaieshaMcQueen.com



EDDIE DEAN (Understudy) Humbled to be making his Barrington Stage debut, this Indianapolis, IN native hopes to motivate and inspire self-reflection through Storytelling. He has recently been seen at Phoenix Theatre in Rolling World Premiere Play *The Magnolia Ballet* by Terry Guest. He also portrayed 'Gator' in *Memphis The Musical* at Indiana Performing Arts Center and 'Bobby' in *The Color Purple* at Civic Theatre in Carmel, Indiana. Other credits include 'Seymour Krelborn' in *Little Shop of Horrors*, 'Horton The Elephant' in *Seussical The Musical*, and 'Officer Eddie Souther' in *Sister Act* at his Alma Mater, Broad Ripple Magnet High School for Performing Arts. All Glory to God! @JustEddieDean. Helen Wells Agency.



COURTNEY C. LONG (Understudy) BSC debut. Courtney is a graduate of Ithaca College with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Her most recent credits include BJ Crosby in *Smokey Joe's Cafe* at ACT of Connecticut, Gynecia in *Head Over Heels*, Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act* at Ithaca College, and Ronnette in *Little Shop Of Horrors* at Bools Flower Shop (Ithaca, NY. The First Site-Specific Production). Huge shoutout to my DGRW inc. Family! Instagram: @courtneyclong Website: CourtneyCLong.com

CREATIVES

THOMAS "FATS" WALLER (Music) (May 21, 1904 – December 15, 1943) Thomas Waller was born in Greenwich Village in 1904, and reared in Harlem. His parents were deeply religious; to his father, jazz was the devil's music. He studied classical piano and played church organ. He began his professional career as organist at the Lincoln Theatre on 135th Street. In 1920, he met his mentor, the great stride pianist James P. Johnson, and soon became a prized attraction at Harlem rent parties, and one of the most respected musicians in New York. With the success of his songs and the musicals *Keep Shufflin'* and *Hot Chocolates*, and a Victor recording contract, the stage was set for Fats Waller. A man of gargantuan appetites, his overindulgence in food, liquor, and loving is a legend. He never slowed down through all the years of one-night stands, big-time radio, triumphant concert tours of Europe and Hollywood films. He died aboard the Santa Fe Chief near Kansas City in 1943. He raised the art of stride piano to its highest level, and was one of the inventors of swing music. He was a prolific composer, a great comedian and a brilliant singer and musician – talents which made him one of the first Black superstars in America. –By Maurice Waller [*Son of Fats Waller*], Co-author with Anthony Calabrese, of Fats Waller, Schirmer Books, 1977

RICHARD MALTBY, JR. (Conceiver, Creator, Original Director) BROADWAY: Conceived and Directed two Tony Award-winning musicals: *Ain't Misbehavin'* (1978, also Tony Award:

Best Director); *Fosse* (1999). Also *Ring of Fire* (2006). Director/Lyricist: *Baby* (1983, Tony nomination Best Musical; 2022 Drama Desk nomination, Best Musical Revival); Lyricist: *Big* (1996, Tony nomination: Best Score; also Dominion Theatre London 2019). Co-Lyricist: *Miss Saigon* (1990 Evening Standard Award, 1991 Tony nomination). Director/Co-Lyricist, *Song & Dance*. OFF BROADWAY: Director/Lyricist *Starting Here*, *Starting Now* (1977 Grammy nomination); *Closer* (1989 Outer Critics Circle Award, Best Musical; 2013 Off Broadway Alliance Award, Best Revival). Director: *Just Jim Dale*, (New York 2014, London 2015). REGIONAL: Lyricist: *Take Flight* (2010 Menier Chocolate Factory; 2012 McCarter Theater); *Waterfall* (2015, Pasadena/ Seattle); Lyricist, *Sousatzka* (2017, Toronto). FILM: Screenplay, *Miss Potter* (2007). Contributes cryptic crossword puzzles to *Harper's Magazine*. Son of well-known orchestra leader. Five children: Nicholas, David, Jordan, Emily and Charlotte.

MURRAY HORWITZ (Conceiver) is a playwright, lyricist and broadcaster, who has been called “my first mentor” by *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda. His accomplishments include originating the NPR comedy quiz *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me*, writing song lyrics for John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby* at The Metropolitan Opera, touring in his one-man show *An Evening of Sholom Aleichem* (directed by Richard Maltby, Jr.) and co-creating the Mark Twain Prize at the Kennedy Center. He is co-author of *Freedom Rider*, which premiered this year at Crossroads Theater. He appears occasionally as a commentator on NPR, and annually on its special *Hanukkah Lights*. His awards include a Tony for *Ain't Misbehavin'*, three Peabody Awards, two National Medals of Arts (at NPR and Washington Performing Arts) and the Order of Arts and Letters from the government of France. A graduate of Kenyon College, he began his career as a Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus clown.

JEFFREY L. PAGE (Choreographer/Director) Associate Artist. BSC: *Who Could Ask for Anything More? The Songs of George Gershwin*, *Company*, *Broadway Bounty Hunter* (Berkshire Theatre Award). Jeffrey Page is a choreographer and director of opera and theatre. His work has garnered Yomiuri Award nominations in Japan, an Emmy nomination in the US, and an MTV Video Music Award win for Best Choreography (Beyoncé – *Run the World*). Jeffrey holds an MFA concentrating in theatre direction from Columbia University. He has been a friend and collaborator of Barrington's since 2016. Along with directing and choreographing *Ain't Misbehavin'* for Barrington and Geva, he is Co-Director (with Diane Paulus) and Choreographer for the upcoming Broadway revival of *1776*.

KWINTON GRAY (Musical Director) was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, where he and siblings received a home-schooled education from their mother. Kwinton comes from a musical family, and he performs with his siblings in their family band “The Grays.” He also started his own jazz/fusion group “The Kwinton Gray Project” in 2015, which later released their debut album in 2018 titled *Leap of Faith*. Both bands continue to perform locally and abroad. In 2017, Kwinton was awarded the *Dallas Observer* Music Award for Best Keyboardist. In 2018, Kwinton went on tour playing keyboards with Janet Jackson, and he also began touring with Tony Award-nominated director/

choreographer Camille A. Brown & Dancers. He has performed all across the world with acts such as The Funky Knuckles, Mononeon, Liv Warfield and more.

DARIUS BARNES (Associate Director/Choreographer) BSC: *Broadway Bounty Hunter* (Associate Choreographer). Darius produced the inaugural Antonyo Awards on YouTube, in collaboration with Broadway Black. His theatre work includes: *MJ the Musical* (Assistant Choreographer), *Kimberly Akimbo* (Associate Choreographer, Atlantic Theater), *Five Guys Named Moe* (Associate Director/Choreographer, Playhouse on Park). His ballets include *Mandala* (New York City Ballet) and *to be in contact* (Carolina Ballet). On TV, Darius is featured in *UPROOTED: A Journey of Jazz Dance* (HBOMax), *Halston* (Netflix) and in Estelle's music video, *Conqueror*. He appeared in the Metropolitan Opera debut of *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* and in six Broadway shows including *Mean Girls* and *Memphis*. @dblexicon

RAUL ABREGO (Scenic Design) is a set designer for Opera, Theatre and Television. His work has been seen at The Juilliard Opera Center, The Manhattan School of Music, The Spoleto Opera Festival in Italy, The Rattlestick, Cherry Lane Theater and Intar. Noted Recent projects: *Fuenteovejuna* for Princeton University, and *The Brobot Johnson Experience* by Darian Dauchan at The Bushwick Starr. Assistant Art Director credits for Television include: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* Seasons 3 & 4, *Ghost* (Power Book 2) and *John Wick*, Art Director for *Falling Water* (pilot), *The Outcasts* (film) and Production Designer for 2009 film *Cruzando*.

OANA BOTEZ (Costume Designer) LCT3: *In the Green, Bull in a China Shop, Luck of the Irish*. Off Broadway: *An Oresteia* (CSC); *Love's Labour's Lost* (The Public); *Master and Margarita* (Bard Summerscape); *A House in Bali, texts&beheadings/ElizabethR, Alan Smithee Directed This Play, Supernatural Wife* (BAM). Regional: *Macbeth* (Old Globe); *Angels in America* (Wilma); *Man in a Case* (Hartford). International: Bucharest National; Old Vic Theater; Théâtre National de Chaillot, Maison des Arts Creteil (Paris); Les Subsistances (Lyon); Budapest National; International Festival of Contemporary Theater (Turkey); Le Quartz (Brest); La Filature (Mulhousse); Tanz im August Festival (Berlin); Centro Cultural Universidad del Pacífico (Lima); Edinburgh International Festival; Singapore Arts Festival. She is teaching in the Design Department at David Geffen School of Drama at Yale.

TOM ONTIVEROS (Lighting Designer) Credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, Cornerstone Theatre Company, Native Voices, East West Players, Denver Center, Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, Pasadena Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hungarian National Theatre, Phoenix Symphony, Bass Symphony Hall, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Park Avenue Armory, Kennedy Center and L.A. Opera. Awards include *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Ovation! Nomination), *The Exonerated* (Lucille Lortel & Drama Desk Awards), *My Barking Dog* (L.A. Drama Critics Choice Award). Tom is the Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of La Verne.

LEON ROTHENBERG (Sound Designer) BSC: *A Crossing*. Recent Broadway: *Hillary and Clinton*; *The Waverly Gallery*; *Mike Birbiglia: The New One*; *The Boys in the Band*; *A Doll's House, Part 2*. NY: Playwrights' Horizons, Classic Stage Company, NYCC, Primary Stages, Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, Public Theater, others. Regional: Arizona Theatre Company, Huntington Theater, Arena Stage, A.C.T., Old Globe, Pasadena Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Seattle Rep, La Jolla, Two River Theater, City Theater Pittsburgh, Williamstown Theater Festival, NY Stage and Film. International: Cirque du Soleil, National Theatre of Cyprus, Dijon International Festival. Tony Award for Sound Design: *The Nance*. klaxson.net

THE WIG ASSOCIATES (Wig Designers) Hair, Wig and Makeup Designers Will Vicari and Krystal Balleza, two New Jersey-based wig and makeup artists who met in college. Their work has recently been seen in *At the Wedding* (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Gingold Group), *Blithe Spirit* (Walnut Street Theatre), *¡Americano!* (New World Stages). See WigAssociates.com for more.

DARLENE MIYAKAWA (Production Stage Manager) has been a freelance stage and production manager in opera and theatre. Recent companies include: LA Dance Project (CA), Geva Theatre Center (NY), Opera Maine (ME), Piedmont Opera (NC), Long Beach Opera (CA), Opera San Jose (CA), East West Players (CA), California Symphony (CA), South Coast Rep (CA), Fort Worth Opera (TX), Tri-Cities Opera (NY), Opera San Antonio (TX), Playwrights' Arena (CA), New York City Opera (NY), Opera Memphis (TN), LA Philharmonic (CA).

ALEXIS NALBANDIAN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a New York City freelance stage manager. She is very thankful and honored to be a part of this production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Some recent credits include: Broadway: *MJ* (PA), *Ain't Too Proud* (PA), *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (PA), *The Cher Show* (PA). Off Broadway: Encores: *Into the Woods* (PA), *Coal Country* (PA/SM). Graduate of Columbia University's MFA Stage Management Program, Class of 2019.

MCCORKLE CASTING LTD: PAT MCCORKLE, CSA; REBECCA WEISS (Casting) Casting actors for Barrington Stage for 20 years. Pat McCorkle is pleased to be an Associate Artist at BSC. Broadway: Over 50 productions including *On the Town*, *Amazing Grace*, *End of the Rainbow*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus*, *She Loves Me*, *A Few Good Men*. Off Broadway: highlights – *Clever Little Lies*; *Sheer Madness*; *Tribes*; *Our Town* (Barrow Street); *Freud's Last Session*; *Toxic Avenger*; *Almost, Maine*; *Driving Miss Daisy*. Feature film: *Premium Rush*, *Ghost Town*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *School Ties*, etc. Television: *Twisted*, *St. George*, *Sesame Street*, *Hack*, *Californication*, *Max Bickford*, *Chappelle's Show*, *Strangers with Candy*, *Barbershop*, etc. mccorklecasting.com

CHARLIE SIEDENBURG (Berkshires Press Representative) (Associate Artist, 18th Season) joined the BSC family in 2005 and has represented over 150 BSC productions. His work has led to features in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *Associated Press* and *American Theatre Magazine*. His many PR credits include the Metropolitan Opera (Live in HD), Paper Mill Playhouse,

George Street Playhouse, Hartford Stage, Goodspeed Musicals, Long Wharf Theatre, SurfFlight Theatre and Two River Theater Company. He serves as Press Rep for Wagner College Theatre, The Minty Awards, Ghostlight Productions and Forestburgh Playhouse. Charlie is a 1995 Theatre/Arts Administration graduate of Wagner College on Staten Island, where he currently teaches Theatre Appreciation. In 2021, he received a Berkshire Theatre Critics Association Special Award for Exceptional Support of Arts Journalism in the Berkshires.

THE PRESS ROOM (National Press Representatives) represents the Broadway productions of *Hamilton*, *The Book of Mormon* and *Paradise Square*, as well as the Vineyard Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, The Wooster Group, Rosie's Theater Kids, Building for the Arts, Hunter Theater Project, Miami New Drama, Paper Mill Playhouse, Ogunquit Playhouse, 3-D Theatricals, NY Classical Theatre, The Drama Book Shop and the Tony Awards. Recent: *Black No More*; *The Waverly Gallery*; *Gloria: A Life*, *Three Tall Women*; *Farinelli and the King*; *Beyond Babel*; *Waterwell's 7 Minutes*; *Out of the Box Theatrical's The Last Five Years*. Upcoming: Florida Georgia Line's *May We All*; *Personality: The Lloyd Price Musical*; *Born for This*; *Mister Miss America*; *Sidney*.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following donors who have supported BSC after April 25, 2022.

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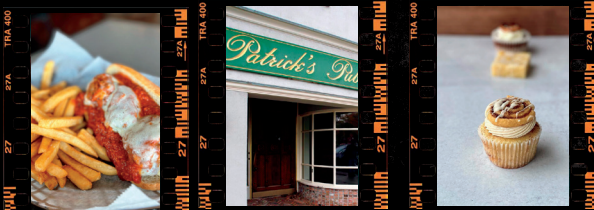
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Susan Halpert, Luxury Waterfront Homeowner



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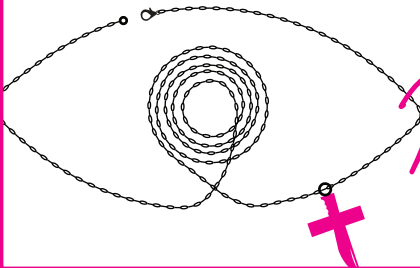
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CHOREOGRAPHY BY JAWOLE WILLA JO ZOLLAR IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHER CENTER AT BARD



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Man of God

BY ANNA OUYANG MOENCH

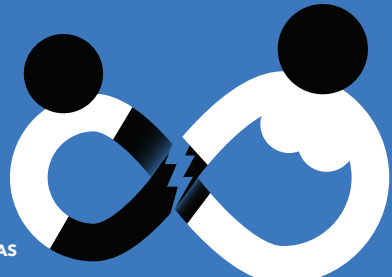
DIRECTED BY MAGGIE BURROWS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

WORLD PREMIERE WTF COMMISSION AUGUST 2-14

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BY HARRISON DAVID RIVERS DIRECTED BY TYLER THOMAS



SPECIAL EVENT AUGUST 3-6

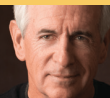


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AND MORE!



Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by HUGH WHEELER
Musical Direction by DARREN R. COHEN
Choreographed by ROBERT LAFOSSE
Directed by JULIANNE BOYD

AUGUST 6-28

***Ain't Misbehavin'* – FREE LOBBY CHAT**

SUNDAY, JULY 3 AT 3:00PM

The Rhoda and Morris Levitt Lobby at the Wolfson Theatre Center: 122 North St., Pittsfield

Gretchen Long, Williams College Professor of History, Faculty Fellow of the Davis Center and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, will discuss the Harlem Renaissance. Registration is required, please contact the

BSC Box Office at BoxOffice@BarringtonStageCo.org or 413.236.8888.



Walking Black in the World: Reclaiming Agency Through Jokes

Ain't Misbehavin' is a unique celebration of Black culture. The show contains an arrangement of songs that celebrates Fats Waller's immeasurable talent and goes beyond that to explore what walking Black in the world means to all its characters. *Ain't Misbehavin'* focuses on illustrating the toll of what wearing a performative mask does to Black people as they walk in the world.

Subversion Through Jokes

In 1926 Fats Waller was kidnapped in Chicago. While Waller was coming out of a performance, four goons attacked him and took him to Al Capone's Hawthorne Inn. Once inside the infamous hotel, his kidnappers held a gun to his back and marched him to the piano. Waller soon realized he was a surprise "guest" at the party. He began playing for the night and according to a later record from his son, was rewarded handsomely for it.

With a reported \$100 dollar tip per song and as much alcohol and food as he wanted, Waller was stuck inside this gathering for three days. Sleeping at the piano between lulls in the music, Waller struck back at his captors by changing up the lyrics to the songs he played. He hid his jabs at his captors through riffs in the lyrics of the songs he was famous for. Through his light-hearted delivery, he was able to speak truth and criticism of those around him without fear of retaliation.

Waller's double-edged lyrics are one of the reasons he was a master of subversion, and one of the reasons his music remains so timeless. By using the structure of a joke to speak the truth in an otherwise unfriendly context, Waller expertly teaches us all the power of subversion.

African Masquerade Tradition

African Masquerades are a historic piece of Black culture that informs much of storytelling today.

Masks are used in traditional storytelling from all over the continent, from Mali to Senegal to Mozambique and far in between. In many African traditions, the storyteller wearing the mask will be dubbed the masker and is said to undergo a physical and spiritual transformation while wearing the mask. Some traditions go as far as to say the masker gives up their own identity while wearing the mask and is subsumed by the spirit of the person or animal the mask they put on while others imagine that the performer is both things at once, themselves and what or who they play.

The idea of the mask and the duality of its nature is found in other schools of Black thought around storytelling and being as well. Famous examples of this layered existence include W.E.B. DuBois' double consciousness, Henry Louis Gates' signifying, and their descendent idea, code-switching. Double consciousness itself can be described as an inward twoness – the idea that a marginalized person must always be performing as both themselves and how their oppressors want them to behave.

Survival Instinct

This idea of how upholding this duality can affect the Black body has been explored in art and literature for many years, and in therapist Resmaa Menakem's book *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. In the book, Menakem asserts that this need to perform double consciousness has caused physical harm to those Black Americans who perform it, as well as their oppressors. Much like other explorations of masking, *My Grandmother's Hands* asks readers to interrogate the ways in which White Supremacy and the double consciousness still present in the world today affects us all.

Fats Waller's life ended at age 39. While decadence certainly played a role, how did the performance of two identities at all times affect him? What does it mean to be living two lives in one body?

UP NEXT ON THE ST. GERMAIN STAGE

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ABCD
BY MAY TREUHAFT-ALI
DIRECTED BY DANIEL J. BRYANT

JULY 1-23

WORLD PREMIERE

At two very different public schools in the same city – an underserved school on the verge of shutdown, and an elite magnet program nearby – pressure to perform well on standardized tests drives students and teachers to compromise their integrity. *ABCD* is a brutal dissection of the inequities in our public school system. When the joys and challenges of learning are reduced to a multiple-choice test, is cheating the only option?

Sponsored in part by Philip and Mary Oppenheimer, Terry and Arthur Wasser