FANNIE: THE MUSIC & LIFE OF FANNIE LOU HAMER

BY CHERYL WEST

IN ASSOCIATION WITH DALLAS THEATER CENTER

Our 30th anniversary season is presented by Jean Baptiste "Tad" Adoue III Fund at The Dallas Foundation

BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER
EST. 1993
1993 - 2023

PRESENTS

FANNIE:
THE MUSIC & LIFE OF FANNIE LOU HAMER

Written by

Cheryl West

Starring

Liz Mikel

Directed by

Akin Babatunde

May 2 – 18, 2024

THIS SEASON IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS

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TACA – The Arts Community Alliance – supports excellence and impact in the arts through grantmaking, capacity building, and thought leadership. Our growing investment in the arts fuels dynamic organizations, exciting new work, and increasing opportunities for artists and audiences to connect – all making Dallas a great place to live and work.

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taca-arts.org

CAST

Fannie Lou Hamer ..……..……**Liz Mikel**

Keys 1……..…….....**Alisa Yarbrough**

Keys 2…….……**Calvin Yarbrough**

Guitar……...…….…. **Kevin McIntosh**

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote, and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our sciety. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence.
www.actorsequity.org

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..…….……...….. **Akin Babatunde**

Assistant Director……...……... **Ptosha Storey**

Associate Producer…….. **Albert Lewis Wash II**

Music Director……..... **Alisa & Calvin Yarbrough**

Stage Manager/Light Board Operator……...……..…...……..**Carter Wallace**

Sound/Projection Operator……..……....……**Zetra Goodlow**

Sound Designer…….……... **John Flores**

Scenic Designer……..…… **Bob Lavalle**

Costume Designer……..…….……. **Suzi Cranford**

Costume Designer……..…….…. **Nicole Iannacccone**

Carpenter……...…….……...**Andrew "Ash" Hankins**

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Artistic Director……..……**Teresa Coleman Wash**

Associate Artistic Producer……..…...**Albert Wash II**

Playwright-in-Residence……...……..**Franky D. Gonzalez**

General Manager……..…….**Mark Albin**

Management Associate ……..…….**Rachel Rodriguez**

Marketing Coordinator……..…..**Ben Siebel**

UT Arlington Marketing Intern……..……...….**Melissa Esparza**

Bookkeeping/Accounting……..……..**Brittney Kennedy**

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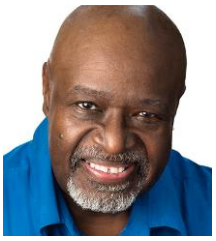
FANNIE TALKBACK SCHEDULE

May 4th at 3 PM – Meet Liz Mikel and a Post Show Social Dreaming Workshop with mental health therapists



May 4th at 8 PM – Meet Director Akin Babatunde

May 5th at 3 PM – Meet Liz Mikel

May 11th at 3 PM – Meet Visual Artist Brianne Moore

May 16th at 8 PM – Meet Libbie T. Lee, League of Women Voters of Dallas

May 17th at 8 PM – Meet Liz Mike

AFTER THE SHOW

Saturday Matinee March 4, 2024

All are invited for light refreshments after the show. Following this you are invited to a Reflective Citizens' gathering to process our experience of the show. Below is what to expect during this hour long meeting.

For the first 30 minutes, we will begin by asking the audience to share their dreams. We call this a Social Dreaming Matrix and it is a unique way to move towards new understandings. You can share a dream from last night or any night that comes to mind. As you listen to the dreams, feel free to share any associations you have. Someone may share a dream about the eclipse, which elicits an association to the sense of awe you had as a child when you witnessed your first magic trick. This process loosens the boundaries of concrete knowledge and helps connect us to the creative processes of our unconscious mind. We are not interested in the individual meaning of the dream or the dreamer. We consider our dreams as a gift to the group. The dreams speak to one another. Thinking together about our dreams and associations can open us up to new thinking.

We will then leave the world of the dream and for the next 30 minutes we will discuss any themes that emerged from the show and the social dreaming matrix. As we close, we will ask for any applications you hope to make in your life as a result of experiencing Fannie Lou Hamer's life and work.

After the show is hosted by members from

Group Analytic Practice of Dallas

Chrysalis Center for Integrated Psychological Health

Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology

Arts Committee for Dallas Society of Psychoanalytic Psycholo

ABOUT THE CAST

LIZ MIKEL *(Fannie Lou Hamer)* Liz Mikel is a multifaceted artist that has been a staple in the DFW Arts scene for more than 30 years. Her love of performing, warmth, magnetic presence and dynamic voice has endeared her to audiences worldwide. Like a painter with a blank canvas, she makes every performance an original.
An accomplished actress and vocalist, Liz has transitioned seamlessly from stage to television, studio recordings, cabaret and feature films. Ms. Mikel has toured both nationally and abroad and has worked alongside some of the industry's biggest celebrities.
Her recurring role as Corrina Williams on NBC's Emmy Award Winning Series, *Friday Night Lights*, tugged the heartstrings of viewers and critics alike. She had audiences laughing in the star-packed, Martin Lawrence blockbuster, *Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins*, playing the wife of the late Michael Clark Duncan. She was cast by comedian/director, Ben Stiller, and body slammed him in, *The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty*. And director Tate Taylor, (The Help), handpicked Mikel to portray Gertrude Saunders opposite the late, great Chadwick Boseman in the James Brown biopic, *Get On Up*.

Mikel received rave reviews in both her Off-Broadway and Broadway debuts as the all knowing muse/madam, Hetaira, in the Douglas CarterBeane/Lewis Flinn musical, *Lysistrata Jones*.
Liz had the prestigious honor of being personally invited by Activist/ Playwright, Eve Ensler to participate in the star-studded 10th anniversary of the *Vagina Monologues*. In addition to performing her selected monologue, she was also chosen by Ensler to stand in for OprahWinfrey in her absence. Mikel joined Ensler for the World Premiere of her comedy, *O.P.C.*, at the Tony Award winning **American Repertory Theater** in Cambridge, Mass.

In 2018, the Tony Award winner sought out Liz for yet another premiere. Ensler teamed up with the **Abingdon Theatre Company** to bring her trio of short plays, *Fruit Trilogy,* to the **Lucille Lortel Theatre**. The play, which deals with the exploitation and eventual reclaiming of the female body, came on the 20th anniversary of her groundbreaking work, *The Vagina Monologues*.

As a vocalist, Liz has opened for *Erykah Badu, Branford Marsalis, Issac Hayes, Joan Rivers, Gennifer Flowers, Chrisette Michele, Ledisi* and her friend, Blues legend, *Lucky Peterson*. In 2017, she joined Peterson for a special New Year's Eve performance at **Le Duc des Lombards** in Paris, France.
New York's Jim Caruso added Liz's powerhouse prowess to his *Best Of Cast Party at Town Hall* alongside Jane Monheit, Lisa Lampanelli, Linda Lavin and Marilyn Maye.

For the past 10 years, Liz has hosted The Entertainer's Showcase at Dallas' oldest Jazz venue, **The Balcony Club**. During the Covid 19 Pandemic, Liz and pianist Linny Nance switched gears and brought music to fans in their home instead. They broadcasted *Monday Night Music Therapy* LIVE on Facebook on Monday nights. The Balcony Club has reopened and the showcase is back EVERY Monday in Lakewood. It features some of the best talent in the Metroplex.

Also during the pandemic, Liz participated in several high profile virtual events including; *That Kindness-A play for Nurses* by V, (formerly known as Eve Ensler); *The People's Summit/Transformation2020;* **Manhattan Theatre Club's** *Ted Snowdon Reading Series* and Dallas Theater Center's, *In The Bleak Midwinter-A Christmas Carol For Our Times*.

ABOUT THE CAST (CONT.)

Liz has been lauded and recognized for her artistic achievements by *D Magazine, Dallas Theater Critics Forum, Dallas Observer, Dallas Voice Reader's Choice Award, The Sankofa Award, Leon Rabin Award, The Column Awards* (multiple), *Broadway World Award*, *Black Women In Jazz* and was a nominee for Dallas Morning News' *2012 Texan Of The Year*. She was selected by the Dallas Observer as one of the *City's 30 People to Watch in 2013*, and was featured on the cover.

Liz is honored to have been selected as a recipient of the *2015 Lunt Fontanne Fellowship* by the **Ten Chimneys Foundation**, and attended a week long intensive workshop with Master Teacher, Phylicia Rashad.

Ms. Mikel received the *2018 Award For Excellence in Community Service* from the **Dallas Historical Society** for making significant contributions to Dallas' quality of life.

In the Spring of 2019, **Dallas Theater Center** honored Liz with the Bill and *Linda Custard Award* for her extraordinary, distinguished and long-time service to DTC.

Mikel was the recipient of the prestigious, 2021 *Fullinwider Award* at the 10th annual **Dallas Summer Musicals High School Musical Theater Awards**. The Fullinwider Award is presented to artists with roots in the North Texas community who have gone on to have had significant impact on the local, regional, and national theater communities.

Ms. Mikel is the recipient of TWO Lifetime Achievement Awards; The 2024 **DFW Entertainment Awards** and The 2024 **Irma P. Hall Black Theatre Awards**.

Liz most recently starred as Benjamin Franklin in the Broadway National Tour of ***1776***. She portrayed John Handcock- the President of Congress, in the Broadway Revival of the musical comedy at **The Roundabout Theater** in the fall of 2022. 1776 was directed by Tony Award winner and American Repertory Theater artistic director, Diane Paulus and Jeffrey L. Page.

She is a founding member of the *Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company* of the Tony Award winning **Dallas Theater Center**, and in 2021, she celebrated her 30th year at DTC.

She is a member of both professional actor's unions, *Actors' Equity Association* and *Screen Actor's Guild.*

A dedicated mother and grandmother, Liz thanks her family, both biological and chosen for their support and love!

Follow Liz online!

Facebook: Ms. Liz Mikel; **Instagram**: @miz_lyzz; **Twitter:** @mizlyzz **YouTube:** Mizlyzz

ABOUT THE CAST (CONT.)

ALISA & CALVIN YARBROUGH *(Keys/Musical Directors)* Both Dallas natives – their entertainment career began with a mega hit called "Don't Stop the Music" in 1981. Alisa & Cavin continued to work together throughout the years performing in concerts, making records and producing other artists as well. Delving into the jingles arena, they have created several successful long-running jingles packages. The first major theatrical endeavor together as Music Directors, as well as actors was Blind Lemon Blues, which received several awards and traveled across the world. Directed by Akin Babatunde, these two owe their acting coaching to Akin, and to Liz Mikel! In addition to theatrical performances, these two are actors in several movies, including Tammy Thomas' *The Rings that Bind Us*, and Snoop Robinson's *A Miracle Christmas*...and now Music Directors for this amazing production of *Fannie...the Musical*. For the last two years, they have been the Hosts for the Ladies in Film and Television Awards…ladies and gents…Yarbrough & Peoples!

KEVIN MCINTOSH (Guitar) Born and raised in Dallas, TX, Kevin McIntosh grew up in the church that his father pastored. This is also where his love of music began, as his father began teaching him how to play guitar at the age of 9. This eventually led to him being offered the opportunity to tour the United States by age 19, performing alongside several gospel and R&B artists. Later, his skillset opened the door for him to be on stage; acting and performing in the play *SPUNK*, where he played Guitar Man, accompanying Ms. Liz Mikel, under Director Akin Babatunde. He is now returning to the stage, reunited with Mikel and Babatunde in *Fannie*. They, along with the rest of the cast, are joined by the world-renowned musical duo Yarbrough and Peoples.

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

CHERYL WEST *(Playwright)* West's plays include *FANNIE: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer, Last Stop on Market Street*, *Shout Sister Shout*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, *Pullman Porter Blues*, and *Jar the Floor*. Her plays have been produced in England, off-Broadway, on Broadway (Play On!) and in numerous regional theaters around the country, including Seattle Rep, Arena Stage, Old Globe, The Goodman, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Minneapolis Children's Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Rep, Asolo Rep, Merrimack, Arkansas Rep, St. Louis Black Rep, Bay Street Theatre Festival, Syracuse Stage, Cleveland Play House, South Coast Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Off-Broadway's Manhattan Theatre Club and Second Stage. She has written TV and film projects at Disney, Paramount, MTV Films, Showtime, TNT, HBO, CBS, BET and the Webby- nominated writer for the original web series *Diary of a Single Mom*. Ms. West is currently preparing a revival of Broadway-bound *Jar the Floor*, and working on commissions for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Minneapolis Children's Theater, the Goodman Theatre, and Seattle Rep.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

AKIN BABTUNDE *(Director)* is an accomplished actor, director, and writer whose theatrical career spans the regional-off- broadway- to international stages of the world-film and T.V. He has been a resident company member of several prestigious theatrical institutions throughout the country Trinity Repertory Company-Providence, R.I., Alley Theater-Houston, Texas, La Mama Theater- N.Y. and the Dallas Theater Center. He was the founder and artistic director of Vivid Theater Ensemble of Dallas and is presently the founder of Ebony Emeralds Classic Theater Company. Mr. Babatunde' is a native of Brooklyn, New York. Although Mr. Babatunde has a national presence he chooses Dallas as his artistic base and continues to mentor aspiring artists throughout the metroplex. He served as a theater specialist consultant for the Dallas Independent School District and acting coach for celebrated recording artists such as Regina Belle, David Peaston, Allyson Williams, and the late great Phyllis Hyman.

He was the first African- American to direct for the Dallas Shakespeare Festival in the celebrated diverse production of *Taming of the Shrew* in 1993. As a writer Mr. Babatunde's work has been commissioned by Florida Stage and Teen Pregnancy of Broward County- Florida Humanities Council-La Mama Theater- Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs-Arts Council; Cuney, Texas-Brown University-Black Academy of Arts and Letters- Documentary Arts- Core Ensemble (internationally celebrated chamber ensemble) His work *Shakespeare-Midnight Echoes* tours throughout the Dallas metroplex paying homage to black performing artists who mastered the bard (Shakespeare) from slavery to the present. In the South Florida area, he has performed at Florida Stage, Caldwell Theater, and Duncan Theater and toured extensively with Core Ensemble in his one-man show *Of Ebony Embers-vignettes of the Harlem renaissance*. The one-man show he wrote along with his brother celebrated Emmy award-winning actor Obba Babatunde entitled *Before the Second Set- a visit with Satchmo* had its world premiere at TBAAL and received critical acclaim at theaters across the country.

His direction of "Blind Lemon-Prince of Country Blues" at Addison Center Watertower Theater, starring

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

national recording artist the late David Peaston, garnered him a best director nomination, and along with co-writer Dr. Alan Govenar, the 2001 Leon Rabin Award for best new play. Their new version "Blind Lemon Blues" toured successfully throughout Europe in Paris, Switzerland, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Mount Jolie. "Blind Lemon Blues" received rave notices in its New York premiere at Central Park's Summer Stage and off-Broadway at the York Theater for which he won the 2010 Audelco award for "Best Director of a Musical" and was nominated for a 2015 Audelco for his direction of *Texas in Paris* at the York starring Tony award winner Lillias White. Mr. Babatunde had the honor of directing the 2006, 2007, and 2010 *God's Leading Ladies Graduation event* for First Lady Sarita Jakes at the Potters House.

His work has been awarded a D magazine citation, Providence Journal, Dallas Observer Best of the Best- best actor award (the first African-American to receive this distinction), the KRLD community service award, 2004 Legacy of Success-Alvin Ailey Performing Arts Award, and the 2008 Jubilee Theater Mendie Award for his production of *Blue*. He has been the recipient of the Irma P. Hall for Theater Excellence and the prestigious Individual Artists Grant Award from the Palm Beach Cultural Council to create a new work *Harvest of Voices* based on the quaint and diverse Florida towns in Lake Worth, Belle Glades, Fort Lauderdale and Delray Beach. He is the recipient of the Dallas Critics Forum Award 1991(Outstanding Actor), 2004, 2015 (Outstanding Direction), and more recently 2016 (for his outstanding direction of *Mountaintop* at the Dallas Theater Center and *Bootycandy* at Stagewest Theater).

Mr. Babatunde holds a Master of Arts degree in Humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas and was honored with the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Babatunde serves as an adjunct professor at Mountain View College, Eastfield Community College, a lecturer at UTD, and in the spring of 2016 the inaugural recipient of the Theodore U. Holger Distinguished Artist in Residence for the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Lehigh University. He is the coordinator/stage director for seven seasons of The Black Academy of Arts and Letters Sunday staged readings and early Spring will direct starring Liz Mikel's *Fannie: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* a collaboration of Teco Theater and The Dallas Theater Center.

PTOSHA STOREY *(Assistant Director)* **Emmy Nominated Actress Ptosha Storey** is excited to work with Bishop Arts Theatre as Assistant Director of *Fannie* She last served as **Assistant Director** in Dallas on Dallas Theater Center's *Mountaintop*, Uptown Players Musical *Chicken and Biscuits* and *Booty Candy* at Stage West in Fort *Worth*. As a **stage actress,** Ptosha was last seen on DTC's stage in "A Raisin in the Sun" as Ruth Younger. Additional **Assistant Director credits** include Abyssinia (Lyric Stage) *The Color Purple*; *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*; *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Jubilee Theatre); *Spunk* (WaterTower Theatre). Director: Blue Door (Co-Director/ The Re*p Theatre) Woman Called Truth, A Glory Over Everything* (Dallas Children's Theater); Theatre); *Steel Magnolias* (The Hudson Theatre, LA). **Television Credits:** Recently appeared in LION GATES feature film "Acrimony" as Brenda alongside Taraji P. Henson. She is currently a series regular on Tyler Perry's The Oval on BET as Nancy and Recurring Guest Star on the Daytime Soap " The Young and The Restless " as NAYA. She recurred on Fox's hit Television series EMPIRE as Chyna. Lifetime Television's *Petals on the Wind* and Tyler Perry's *If Loving You Is Wrong* (Tilda) on OWN Network

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

ALBERT LEWIS WASH II *(Associate Producer)* currently serves as the Associate Artistic Producer at Bishop Arts Theatre Center. He holds a degree in Theatre Performance and Practice from Point Park University Conservatory for the Performing Arts School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His recent directing credits include *Express* (Short Film), *Weenies in the Moonlight* (Short Film), as well as *Black Nativity* 2021 and 2023.

CARTER WALLACE *(Stage Manager/Light Board Operator)* is a seasoned theater professional driven by a genuine passion for expanding our understanding of the human experience and exploring our connections to each other. With over a decade dedicated to the craft, his work spans comedy, naturalism, and drama. His passion for theater began in high school and has grown those early planted seeds exponentially. Carter received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from Midwestern State University with an emphasis in Theatre Tech & Design. In 2015, he started working at Backdoor Theatre and served as their Artistic/Technical Director until November 2023. While at Backdoor Theatre, his visions produced the six highest-grossing and most attended musicals and plays produced in the organization's 52 year history. Carter has worked on over 50 productions wearing many hats, but his true passion lies in directing and stage management. He is excited to inspire the next generation of theater artists and help create a new generation of arts enthusiasts.

ZETRA GOODLOW *(Sound/Projection Operator)* originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a dedicated theater professional with a background in Theatre and Business, having also studied at Point Park University. In 2021, Zetra received recognition from Dallas Broadway World And Irma P Hall with nominations for her exceptional contributions to the theatre community. She was nominated for Best Direction, alongside Albert Wash II, for their work on Bishop Arts Theatre's production of *Black Nativity* in 2021 in which she served as Co-Director. She wrote the one-act play, *The Elephant In The Room* at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, and her role as Assistant Director in *Big Scary Animals* by Matt Lyle at Theater Three also earned a Best Show nomination in BroadayWorld. In 2023, Zetra achieved further acclaim by becoming a semi-finalist for the Drama League Directing Fellowship in New York City.

CAMRON/COURTNEY WARE (Projection Mapping) are a couple of artists and story-tellers, who do that through Video projection mapping! They've been doing it for almost 15 years and have worked on theatre productions such as *Frozen*, *FreakyFriday*, and *Great Gatsby* to name a few. Outside of the theatre world, the pair has had a variety of clients such as Dallas ISD, Michelob, the

Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Ed Sheeran

PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

JOHN FLORES *(Sound Designer)* **Dallas Theater Center** (REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES, FADE, *GLORIA, RAISIN IN THE SUN, CLYBOURNE PARK)*. **Kitchen Dog** Artistic Company Member credits (*CROSSING THE LINE, QUEEN OF BASEL, RADIANT VERMIN, YOU GOT OLDER, WOLF AT THE DOOR, IRONBOUND, THE ROYALE, BRE'ER COTTON, PAPER FLOWERS, FEATHERS AND TEETH, THE THRUSH AND THE WOODPECKER, BLACKBERRY WINTER, THE TOTALITARIANS, THE DUMB WAITER*, *THE FIRESTORM, THINNER THAN WATER, GIDION'S KNOT, THE MOTHERFUCKER WITH THE HAT, RACE, SE LLAMA CRISTINA, ONE MAN SHOW, RX, THE CHAIRS, THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE, BECKY SHAW* and more.) **Belle Sauvage Theater (THE LAST FLAPPER) WaterTower Theater (GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM) Second Thought Theatre** (*ONE FLEA SPARE, DRUNK/GO, WHAT WE WERE, REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN, STRAIGHT WHITE MEN, THE GREAT GOD PAN, MARTYR, OTHELLO, BELLEVILLE, BULL, COCK, and more*). **Stage West** (AN OCTOROON, *DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER, HIR, SEX WITH STRANGERS, THE ALIENS*), **Theatre Three** (DRACULA, THE MOORS, SHE KILLS MONSTERS, DR. *JEKYLL & MR. HYDE, ADDING MACHINE – THE MUSICAL, SEMINAR, BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO*), **Cry Havoc Theater (THE ART OF BROKEN THINGS, ONCE UPON A MOON, BABEL, SHOTS FIRED, THE (OutSIDERS) Echo Theater** (*RUINED, NIGHT MOTHER*) **The Drama Club** (*WILD. WICKED, & WYRD) Other credits* **Shakespeare Dallas, Audacity Theatre Lab**, **Our Endeavors Theater Collective**, **Junior Players**, **Cara Mia**, **Limehouse Theater.** John and Jim Kuenzer are experimental electronica duo **JIM/JOHNMAKENOISE.**

BOB LAVALLE *(Scenic Director)* Zach Theatre: *A Christmas Carol, Natasha Piere and the Great Comet of 1812*. Dallas Theater Center: *The Christians*, *Dream Girls*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Raisin in the Sun, Clybourne Park, Cabaret, Second City Does Dallas, Red* and *A Christmas Carol.* Casa Mañana Theatre: *Charlot's Web*, *Beauty and the Beast, West Side Story; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.* Water Tower Theatre: *The Full Monty, Black Tie* and the world -premiere of *Goin Hollywood.* Dallas Children's Theater: *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* the national tour. Circle Theater: *One Man Two Guvnors, Sweeney Todd, Young Frankenstein, Lonesome Blues, The Mountaintop, Fences*. Stage West: *An Octaroon, Between Riverside and Crazy, Cruel Intentions; the Nineties Musical,* Amphibian Stage: *Three Days of Rain, Time Stands Still, Hunting and Gathering, Death Tax, Fiction, Smart Pretty Funny,* Trinity Shakespeare Festival: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labor's Lost,* Shakespeare Dallas: *Titus Andronicus, Macbeth.* Fort Worth Opera - *Three Decembers.* Resident Scenic Designer UNT School of Opera - 5 years, Resident Scenic Designer Casa Mañana - 5 years. other design venues include Jubilee Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater, African American Repertory Theatre, Stage West, Water Tower Theatre, North Shore Music Theater Beverly, Ma, CFRT Fayetteville N.C., The North Carolina Theater. Four-time Gust Designer, University of Oklahoma, Producer Commencement Ceremonies University of Oklahoma 5 years, Television Production Designer 14 years for PBS' *Barney and Friends*, over 50 (hour long)Barney Home Videos Lyric Studios and Hit Entertainment. Feature film Production Design - *Searching for Sonny* Red Productions and *The Land of Make Believe* shot at Universal Theme Park Orlando Fl.

PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

SUZI CRANFORD *(Costume Designer)* TFM Productions *Dream Girls,* Uptown Players *Down South, Kissof the Spider Woman(2003 & 2013,) A Men Of No Importance, The Who's Tommy, Pageant (2004 & 2014), Aida (2006 & 2016,) The Valley of the Dolls, The Wild Party, Die Mommie Die!, Bare, Bent, Breathe, The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife, Forbidden Broadway, Closer to Heaven, The Temperamentals, The Facts of Life, Thank you for Being a Friend, The Divine Sister, Songs for a New World, The Boy from Oz, The Nance, End of the Rainbow, The Normal Heart, Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike, Angels in America (parts I and II,) Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Legend of Georgia McBride, The Cake, The View Upstairs, Yellow, A Very Sordid Wedding, When Pigs Fly, Fun Home, Torch Sing, Silver Foxes, Chicken and Biscuits, Jada Bells, Fire and Air.*

NICOLE IANNACCONE *(Lighting Designer)* has worked professionally for the past 20 years in the entertainment lighting industry. Currently, she is a freelance Lighting Designer, Programmer and Electrician. Some recent Lighting Design credits include *Seagull and Deathtrap* with Theater Three, *Yanga* with Cara Mia/ Soul Rep, *Dust Bowl* with Verdigris Ensemble, *Ann-Tig-Uh-Knee* with Second Thought Theater, *Cadillac Crew* with Soul Rep/ Echo Theater, the 30th Anniversary Performance with Alegre Ballet Folklorico and *World Classic*, *One Year in Egypt*, *Black Nativity* and *Sum of Us* with Bishop Arts Theater. I spend some of my free time painting and drawing. I have a dog and two cats who are all perfect.

ANDREW "ASH" HANKINS *(Carpenter)* has been building homes for 25 years. Recently, he made the set for Artstillery's production of *Family Dollar* and BATC's *The Sum of Us One-Act Festival*. He loves building all kinds of things and believes he is positively impacting the art community by applying his knowledge and passion for construction to making sets for plays and movies. He is excited to join the team for *Fannie: The Music & Life of Fannie Lou Hamer* and looks forward to working with BATC in future productions.

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NAJEE
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ALEX BUGNON
Winspear Opera House
2403 Flora Street
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TUE JUL 9
7:30 PM

WELCOME TO OUR 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Dear Esteemed Audience,

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I welcome you to our theater as we celebrate our 30-year anniversary. The journey to this moment has been one of dedication, passion, and unwavering belief in the power of the arts to transcend boundaries and illuminate the human experience.

From humble beginnings, we have grown into a vibrant and inclusive community that embraces the richness of diversity and amplifies the voices often unheard. Our stage has been a canvas for stories that challenge, inspire, and unite us all. We've laughed together, cried together, and discovered the extraordinary within the ordinary.

This milestone is a testament to the incredible talents and tireless efforts of our board of directors, brilliant locally-based artists, loyal staff members, and longstanding supporters like our friends at the Dallas Theater Center. We are indebted to Kevin Moriarty for the opportunity to co-produce this important production of *Fannie: The Life and Music of Fannie Lou Hamer*, and for bringing the incomparable Liz Mikel to our stage. It's been a long time coming! This production has been a labor of love fueled with our mission to create a space where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Each production has been a labor of love, and every standing ovation has fueled our mission to create a space where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

As we look back on three decades of creativity and innovation, we also look ahead with excitement and determination. The journey continues, and we invite you to join us as we forge ahead, telling stories that reflect the kaleidoscope of human existence.

Thank you for being a part of our story.

Warmly,

Teresa Coleman Wash

Founder and Executive Artistic Director

TERESA COLEMAN WASH ***(Executive Artistic Director)*** is a producer and thought leader on bias and racism in the American Theatre. Several of her essays have been published in the Dallas Morning News and Howlround Theatre Commons. She is the founder of Bishop Arts Theatre Center, and she holds an MA in Arts Management from Goucher College and a BS in Business Administration from Albany State University. Wash is a National Arts Strategies fellow who studied at Harvard Business School. She is the 2019 recipient of the Theater Communications Group's Peter Zeisler Memorial Award for artistic integrity and ingenuity. In 2018, she received the National Guild for Community Arts Education's Milestone Award and the Business Council for the Arts Obelisk Award in the category of Visionary Nonprofit Arts Leader. Mrs. Wash has also earned several Irma P. Hall Awards, including the 2020 Irma P. Hall Theatrical Excellence Medal. She is the current recipient of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's Quest for Success Award and Broadway Dallas' Leah and Jerome Fullinwider Award. Teresa was elected to the Dramatists Guild of America Council in 2017, representing the Southern region, where she also served on the steering committee.

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PETER WHITE &

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Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling

May 3 - 19

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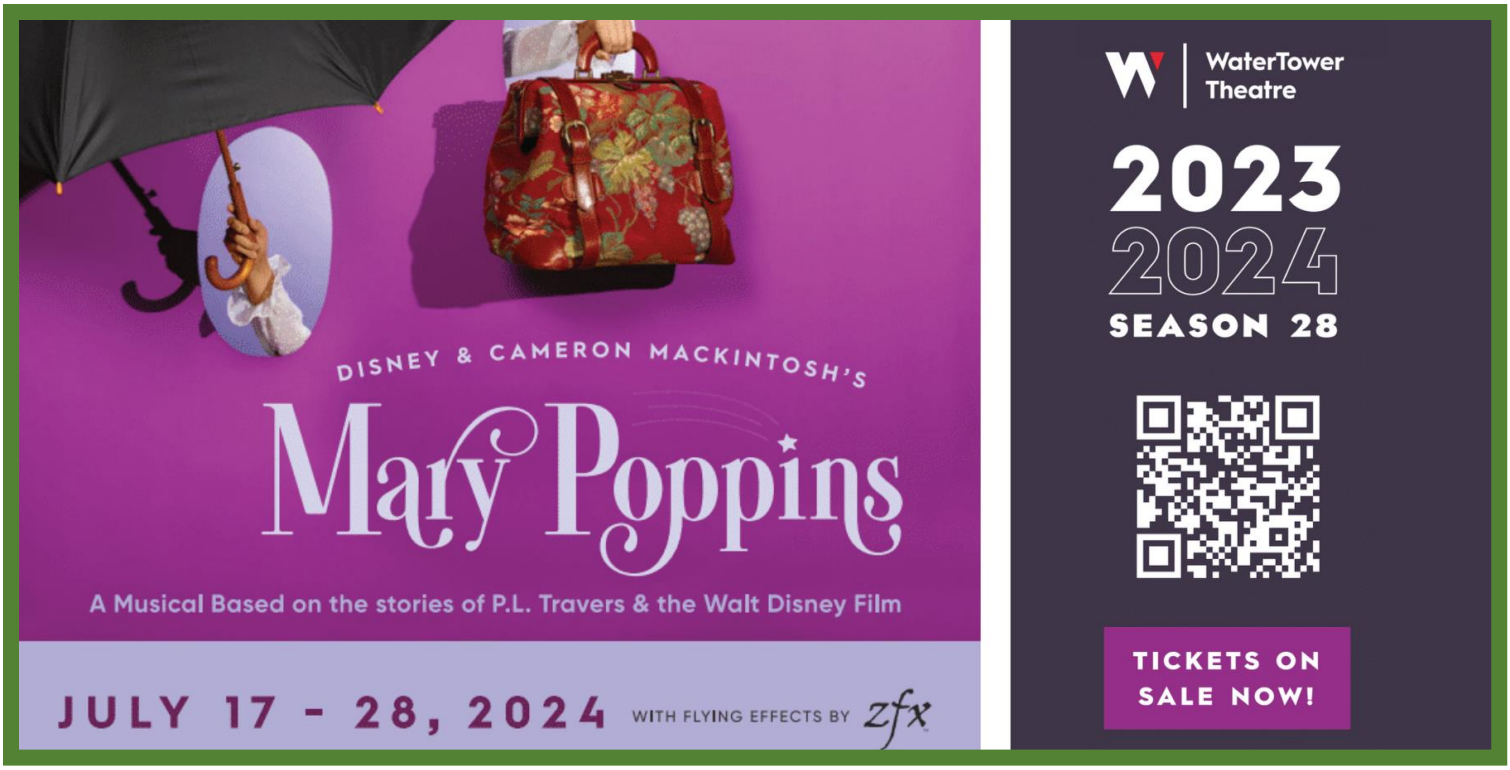

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Becki McDonald

A WORD FROM OUR PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE

Dear Friends,

It's all over the news. Theatrical seasons are shortening. Staff members are being laid off. People aren't going to shows like they used to. In these times of uncertainty, painful decisions are being made and cultural institutions that have survived decades are shutting down before our eyes. The arts and nonprofits are in retreat.

We can debate all day about the causes of this painful contraction in the cultural sector. We are all searching for answers in this era of austerity. For us at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center our solution has been simple: stick to the fundamentals. What are those fundamentals? Put simply, YOU. Our community. When we shut down, we brought the healing power of the arts to our most vulnerable community through PatioLive! at senior centers all over Dallas. When we returned to public performances, we invested in local playwrights by developing their voices, putting money in their pockets, and seeing their plays read before YOU, the community. We took chances on local talent and brought legends of the Dallas theatre together with new voices emerging on the national scene. We had an amazing season of Jazz performances for all to enjoy and remember how the power of the arts brings us together. Where others responded by closing ranks and shutting doors, we responded by flinging the doors open—while still respecting reasonable safety measures—and inviting YOU, our community, into the theatre to experience our Jazz Series, our Theatre Series, and our educational programming.

The reward for sticking to the tried and true fundamentals that have always seen us through the recessions of the past and the economic hardships of yesterday have been evident. We are thriving! We are operating with a surplus. We are expanding staff and investing more than ever in our Dallas community. We believed in our community, and YOU saw us through.

As the debate on what we should do in these times continues, we are again coming back to the core foundation that has kept Bishop Arts Theatre Center alive through a milestone of 30 years. YOU. We have only ever existed to be there for our community and our community has rewarded us. You have kept us open, and we'll always be open thanks to you. I hope that YOU consider making a tax-deductible gift to help us close out our 30th year stronger than ever and ready to serve YOU, our community each day of the next 30 years.

With love and gratitude to YOU, our community,
Franky D. Gonzalez

To donate, click below:

https://secure.givelively.org/donate/teco-theatrical-productions-inc

BATC ANGELS

The Bishop Arts Theatre Center is successful because we are supported by the generosity of private foundations, major corporations, public sector granting agencies, a resourceful group of board members, and individuals who are committed to sustaining our organization. Donors are the lifeblood of our organization because they give from their hearts. We rely heavily on donor support and invite you to become a partner too.

(Donations made as of 1/31/2024)

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