



Queens

from the *Harlem Renaissance & Today!*

A CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS
IN SONG, DANCE AND SPOKEN WORD

**SATURDAY MAY 13 AT 6PM &
SUNDAY MAY 14 AT 3PM**

**CREATED AND DIRECTED BY
DARRYL REUBEN HALL**

**MUSIC DIRECTION BY
JASON ALEXANDER**

FEATURING: TABITHA ABBOT, ANJELICA ADAMS,
SAUDIA BATTLE, JOCELYN "JOSSI B" BENFORD,
ARIELLE BRYANT, JAQUANDA "CHAE" CLEMENTS,
ALVENIA EFFIE DERBAN, TONI DIAMOND-BINGHAM,
CHELSEA LOVE HUNT, LOLITA JENNINGS-FLAGG,
TEKIRIA KELLY, TAMONICA MIKE,
CAROLYN SUTTON, LINDA GAIL TOWNSEND, AND
TRINA JOY WASHINGTON.

TICKETS: [HTTPS://STAGEAURORA.TICKETLEAP.COM/QUEENS/](https://stageaurora.ticketleap.com/queens/)



ADA
COMPLIANT

Large
Print




STAGE AURORA
THEATRICAL COMPANY



**CULTURE BUILDS
FLORIDA**
the blog of
Florida ARTS & CULTURE

THE BLACK SEED

SHOW ORDER

EVE MONOLOGUE.....LOLITA JENNINGS-FLAGG

VIRTUOUS WOMAN.....ALL

I'M EVERY WOMAN.....CHOREOGRAPHED BY JOCELYN "JOSSI B" BENFORD & ARIELLE BRYANT

MOTHER TO SON.....ALVENIA EFFIE DERBAN

GOD BLESS THE CHILD.....CHELSEA LOVE HUNT

NARRATION.....TRINA JOY WASHINGTON

I'VE GOT RHYTHM.....JAQUANDA CHAE CLEMENTS

SARAH VS. HANNAH.....SAUDIA BATTLE, TONI DIAMOND-BINGHAM, ANJELICA ADAMS

SUMMERTIME.....ANJELICA ADAMS, CHELSEA LOVE HUNT, ARIELLE BRYANT

GO BACK TO WHERE YOU STAYED LAST NIGHT.....ALVENIA EFFIE DERBAN

HE MAY BE YOUR DOG BUT HE'S WEARING MY COLLAR.....TONI DIAMOND-BINGHAM

WHIG WHAM FROM "BLACK TO MY ROOTS", NY INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL.....LOLITA JENNINGS-FLAGG

I AM CHANGING.....JAQUANDA CHAE CLEMENTS

A CRADLE TO HOLD ME.....SAUDIA BATTLE

I LOOK TO YOU.....TAMONICA MIKE

NARRATION.....TRINA JOY WASHINGTON

MARY MONOLOGUE.....TEKIRIA KELLY

BECAUSE HE LIVED.....CAROLYN SUTTON

HOW I GOT OVER.....JAQUANDA CHAE CLEMENTS

WIND BENEATH MY WINGS.....LINDA GAIL TOWNSEND

NARRATION.....TRINA JOY WASHINGTON

TOTAL PRAISE.....ALL



ADA
COMPLIANT



WHO'S WHO



Tabitha Abbot a native of Jacksonville, Florida began her dance training at the age of 7 at The Northside Center of the Arts, she quickly transitioned to the Jacksonville Centre of the Arts Pre-Professional Company, under the leadership of Ms. Kezia Rolle and Conrad Lewis. Tabitha has been trained in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Hip-Hop and West African. Tabitha has had the opportunity to train at the Aliey School, as well as various professional artists such as Brian & Scott Nicholson, Kira Harper, and Hamilton Evans. Tabitha is an Alumni of Jacksonville University, graduating with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance.



Anjelica Adams is a singer from Jacksonville, FL. Her theater credits include Once On This island (TiMoune) , The Journey (Ella Gitzgerald) , and Sweep Around Your Door (production).



Saudia Battle A native of Jacksonville, Florida, is an actor, singer, songwriter, radio personality and co-host of the radio show, “Love Notes” on GODRadio1 out of San Diego California, and is a member of the Phillipian Community Church Mass Choir. Currently two of her songs have been released “I Love You Lord” and “Perfect Love”. Perfect Love has been signed with the record label Renegade Soul Records and playlisted in the UK. She has completed an album project which is scheduled to be released in May, 2023. She enjoys performing, making others laugh and finds freedom on the stage. Theatre Credits include: Steel Magnolias (M'Lynn), The Color Purple (Daisy/Women's Ensemble), You Can't Take It with You (Rheba) Perilous Times (Marketplace Singer & Dancer), Film/TV Credits: HBO Recount (Office Manager), Heirloom (Joy), Weather Myth Commercial (Principal), Like Dandelion Dust (Extra)



Jocelyn "Jossi B" Benford Is currently the dance director at The Foundation Academy. She has choreographed and directed multiple events , staged productions , and film productions such as The Wiz Jr., Lion King Jr, The Art of Movement, Dj Envy's Rep Yo Brand, Duval Dance Rally and so much more. Jocelyn was highlighted and honored as a featured artist for the Three Hearts season 7 production at the MOCA Museum. She is the Founder of The F.O.U.R D movement and the Co-Founder of the Light the way Tutoring & Performing Arts. She continues to be a staple in the Jacksonville arts community and looks forward to opening a studio to bring more awareness to the arts and provide talent opportunities for people of all ages.

WHO'S WHO



Arielle Bryant is a multi-dimensional artist native to Jacksonville, Florida. Her love for the arts began with dance and cheerleading at the age of 3 . She sang in the youth choir at church and performed in the chorus at Hyde Park Elementary School. Arielle studied the art of dance for over 16 years at various educational institutions including Florida A&M University and Florida State College of Jacksonville. Her theater career began performing multiple plays with Mega Mind Productions and extended to Players By the Sea where she performed "Memphis", "The Color Purple", "The Wiz", and "Dreamgirls" as a principal dancer. Arielle has choreographed for some of the most brilliant directors including Cedarian Crawford, Maxie Coleman, and she assisted DeWitt Cooper with "The Wiz." She enjoys all things artistic including interior design, fashion design, and modeling.



Jaquanda Chae Clements was born and raised in Jacksonville, Fl. She discovered her love and passion for fine arts at a young age. She is an alumni of Grammy winning DA School of the Arts as a vocal major, and UNF earning her BA in Psychology in 2013. In 2008 she joined Jacksonville Mass Choir under Deborah McDuffie's direction and later The Ritz Voices allowing her to travel to perform. She starred in Stage Aurora's production of Dreamgirls (Effie) and PBTS's The Color Purple (Church Soloist).



Alvenia Effie Derban is regional actress with Stage Aurora Theatrical Company. She has appeared in Dreamgirls, Amen Corner, God's Trombones, The Colored Museum, A Raisin in the Sun, Steel Magnolias, Frat House, Harlem of the South, and The Me Nobody Knows. She is currently the coordinator for C.A.S.T. the Edward Waters University Drama Club. Ms. Derban has directed live production scenes from For Colored Girls and original pieces dedicated to Black History Month celebrations: The Colored Museum; Sweat! The Musical. Film credits include: What You Won't Do (writer/director) <https://youtu.be/6V7qGyWyxPA> Journey of Us (producer) <https://youtu.be/kpf8MEOIVY8> If You Like Pina Coladas (director) <https://youtu.be/KzWBrHXuWm> Father's Day (writer/producer/director) <https://youtu.be/Mf8ryb-1Qe8> Missed Memo (podcast) <https://youtu.be/mryW0ykB6j4> @aederban on all social media platforms www.aederban.com



Toni Diamond-Bingham born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio has made Jacksonville, FL the place she calls home. She is an entrepreneur, musician, singer, actor and writer. She has been in the arts in some form or fashion since the age of 4. Coming from a musical background, it was easy for her to settle in comfortably with theater, vocal and instrumental music. Toni graduated from Cleveland School of the Arts where she was a triple major. (theater, vocals and instrumental music). She was mostly interested in classical performances until she got a real taste of the theater bug in 2001 where she played in Mama, I Want to Sing at the Cleveland Playhouse Theatre. She then moved to Jacksonville, Florida where she decided to write about her real life experiences. "I write as a form of release. Writing heals me and the stage delivers me." "I enjoy taking a moment from my life to be someone else on stage. It's liberating." Toni has successfully written and produced 3 stage plays. "I'm Sick of Church Folk:", "Wedlocked", "Silent Scream" and "Sibling Rivalry" with her Non Profit Organization, Rare Diamonds Performing Arts Studio Inc. Toni is also the creator of Toni's Touch Seasonings. Toni's Touch came from a get-together with a small group of friends. In preparing to cook, she combined the seasonings into a single container. The response was overwhelmingly positive and created a demand for more of her unique flavor. Toni's Touch has been showcased at several community events

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(Cont.) such as the Melanin Market, the 2021 Fabulous Woman Pageant, and the 2021 Black Expo. Her most recent accomplishment is having the opportunity to partner with Amazon and soon Whole Foods where her seasonings are for sale and doing well. Having a flair for the dramatic, a gift of laughter, and culinary arts, Toni expresses her life through the wonder and beauty of the arts. Toni is looking to expand her gifts and her business knowledge of the arts to the community. "I am excited for the next stages of my life in the Arts." Toni's favorite saying is "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change." She has lived by that saying her entire life.



Chelsea Love Hunt a lover of all things theater! Selected Theater Credits include: The Wiz (Dorothy), For Colored Girls (Lady in Yellow), Spunk (Lady), Dream Girls (Lorell), A Raisin In the Sun (Ruth), Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey), Black Pearl Sings (Black Pearl), Akeelah and the Bee (Gail). Follow on Instagram @chelsea_love_hunt.



Lolita Jennings-Flagg A Native of Atlanta Georgia, Lolita began performing on stage with Stage Aurora Theatrical Company, performing in shows such as The Color Purple & A Raisin in the Sun. She has also performed at The Alhambra Dinner Theatre in Kiss Me Kate and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. Some of her other theater credits include Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Sister Act, For Colored Girls, Dreamgirls, Crowns and Mama I Want to Sing. She has studied under Broadway professional and director Darryl Rueben Hall, Angela Robinson from Tyler Perry's "The Haves and the Have Nots", Scott Whitehurst, along with actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymah' (TV star of Cosby, In Living Color, That's So Raven). She currently serves as the principal of LaCore Christian Elementary, School of the Arts.



Tekiria Kelly is a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, currently working in Jacksonville, Atlanta and NYC. She's worked with Stage Aurora for over fifteen years on musicals such Cinderella and High School Musical. Her most recent credits include Godfather of Harlem(Addict) and Indie short films Double Aquarius(TK) and Brooklyn Streets(The Girl). She also DJs under Kelly Monea and can be found on IG @tekiria for the most up to date projects she's working on.



Tamonica Mike A faithful servant that is new to Broadway. Tamonica is a passionate singer who has opportunity to perform with various local gospel groups and served as one of the background singers for local artist MJ Baker during the opening act for Bile.

WHO'S WHO



Carolyn Sutton is a singer originally from Jacksonville, Fl. She began singing as a young child with Mount Moriah House of God Saints in Christ with their children's choir and ultimately joined their adult choir. Carolyn moved to Maryland in 1979 to attend Howard University. There she also performed in "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God" and "Mama, I Want To Sing". She continued her passion for singing with the Springfield Baptist Church. Other select performing and singing experience includes: Christmas concert Shiloh Baptist Church in 2009 and Word in Worship albums with Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick Jr. at The Bethel Church in Jacksonville.



Linda Gail Townsend I'm an American Gospel Artist. I was raised and live in the beautiful city of Jacksonville, Florida. I'm the wife of an Amazing Husband and Pastor, Barry L. Townsend, Sr. I have two sons, Barry Jr., and Caleb Townsend and a beautiful bonus daughter, Shataia Townsend and five gorgeous grandchildren, Joshua, Zuri, Sienna, Skylar and Nova. I've been singing gospel practically all of my life. I'm a born again believer since the wonderful age of eighteen. I attended the local schools and Florida A & M University. I recorded my First Song in 2022, "I Shall Declare the Works of the Lord."



Trina Joy Washington Let me explain Kevin Heart (chocolate girl) The way you love me (church lady) (Until you do right by me (Justine). America most wanted (Driver)(police officer) Scandal (ball room dancer) Gray's Anatomy (nurse) One funny christmas (neighbor) I do I dont (secretary)



Jason Alexander Music Director for Queens from the Harlem Renaissance and Today! Currently serving as Director of Music for two ministries in Jacksonville Florida. Has been collaborating Piano Accompanist for EWU, FSCJ, Sandalwood High, Atlantic Coast High, First Coast High and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. He has been musical director for several Stage Aurora productions including "Crowns", "Dream Girls", "Apostasy", "The Wiz", "Three Divas", "Black Nativity" & "The Me Nobody Knows". He has also accompanied the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra under the Conduction of Charles Floyd. He is currently assisting in the musical production of "The Gospel Truth - An Evening of Spirituals and True Gospel with Ritz Voices & Alumni" set to take place on June 10 at the Ritz Theatre. He

coproduced Sunday Best Finalist Jamarie Moore's album "I'll Go", and produced Audiobook 1(EP) for indie Gospel Artist DAlex. Follow his music page on Facebook under the name JTONE for updates on upcoming projects.

WHO'S WHO



Darryl Reuben Hall Founder and Executive Producer of Jacksonville's Stage Aurora Theatrical Co. is a native of Jacksonville, FL and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Florida. Mr. Hall is a member of Actor's Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA, American Guild of Variety Artists, and American Guild of Musical Artists. Hall is an alumnus of Lincoln Center Director's Lab and a Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Fellow. A veteran of the stage, Mr. Hall's favorite credits include: Broadway: Gershwin's Porgy and Bess at Lincoln Center/ NYCO (PBS Live from Lincoln Center Telecast), Cinderella starring Eartha Kitt (Broadway National Tour), Street Corner Symphony (pre-Broadway Workshop). Off-Broadway/New York: Stormy Weather with Leslie Uggams (Manhattan Theatre Club, Signature Theatre), Stormy Weather with Phylicia Rashad (AMAS Musical Theatre), Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, Carnegie Hall with Linda Eder and the Broadway Gospel Choir, Three Mo' Tenors (PBS Great Performances and original cast recording), Hallelujah, Baby! (York Theatre Company), The In-Gathering (New Professional Theatre), Café Society (TRIBECA Performing Arts Center). Select Regional Theatre: Jacksonville's Alhambra Dinner Theatre (Guys and Dolls, Ain't Misbehavin', The Wiz, Five Guys Named Moe, and Kiss Me Kate, Directed by Tod Booth), Music Theatre Wichita (Kiss Me Kate), Paul in Kiss me Kate (Repertory Theatre St. Louis - Judy Award Winner), Civil War (Ford's Theatre), Man/Preacher in Crowns (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), Flick in Violet (Best Actor- Carbonell Award Nomination) and Victor in Smokey Joe's Café (Actor's Playhouse), Jim in Big River (Lyceum Theatre), Gabey in On The Town (White- Willis Theatre), The Mikado (North Shore Music Theatre and Huntington Theater), High Spirits (Berkshire Theatre Festival), Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope (Crossroads Theatre- Tony Award Winner/ Best Regional Theatre), No Moe in Five Guys Named Moe (Riverside Theatre). He also graced the stage with Aretha Franklin, Rita Moreno, Tommy Tune, John Davidson, and Phylicia Rashad. For more information, please visit his website: darrylreubenhall.biz



STAGE AURORA THEATRICAL CO. 'Theatre that Enlightens', launched its Mainstage of Theatre, Dance, and Music in 2000 under the leadership of Darryl Reuben Hall. Stage Aurora began as an opportunity to provide the underserved community of Jacksonville's Northside with professional theatre reflecting the Black experience. We aim to build bridges of understanding between cultures in relation to the human experience. To date, we have produced 200+ productions for audiences. Throughout Florida: The Wiz, Dreamgirls, To Kill a Mockingbird, Driving Miss Daisy, Dinner with Booker T., A Raisin in the Sun, Fences, The Piano Lesson, and Darryl Reuben Hall's Frat House, just to name a few; garnering awards and recognition as the FL Division of Cultural Affairs Diversity and Inclusion Award, (2) Festival Favorite awards in the Atlanta Black Theatre Festival, Onyx Award, Best Boss Performing Arts award, Community Action Motivator Award, and the Individual Arts Award from the Cultural Council of Jacksonville.

To learn more visit our website: stageaurora.org

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Special thanks to Events at Suite Sixty Five, The Greater Refuge Temple, The LaCore School, Pastor Russell Williams & First Lady Joyce Williams, Jann Clark, Tarana Cox, Dr. Dolores Hall, Edward Hall, our Stage Managers: Alejandria Brooks & Joyce Petty, The Stage Aurora Board Members, our Volunteers, & our Sponsors:



THE BLACK SEED



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***A special thank you to our cast members
and their families! Please enjoy the following images:***

























Happy Mother's Day!