

BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE PRESENTS
THE ARTSCENTRIC PRODUCTION OF

ArtsCentric

A JOYFUL HOLIDAY TREAT
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

BLACK NATIVITY



**BALTIMORE
CENTER
STAGE**

NOV 30 - DEC 22

BY LANGSTON HUGHES
DIRECTED BY KEVIN S. MCALLISTER
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CEDRIC D. LYLES
CHOREOGRAPHY BY SHALYCE HEMBY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honor Native Land

Responding to a call from our Indigenous colleagues, collaborators, and neighbors, Baltimore Center Stage is working toward building meaningful and accountable relationships with the land we occupy. As a first step on this path, you'll see a land acknowledgement in each of our programs. Acknowledgement is itself a small gesture, and we look forward to continuing our efforts toward decolonization in a meaningful way. If you're interested in more information feel free to visit the US Department of Arts and Culture's "Honor Native Land" guide.

Baltimore Center Stage acknowledges that the land beneath us, this place, this community, owes its vitality to generations who have come before. Some were brought forcibly to this land, some came here in search of ownership or simply a better life, and some have lived and stewarded this land for countless generations. In a spirit of making erased histories visible, we acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Piscataway peoples. The Susquehannock, Lenape, and Lumbee peoples have also cared for this land. These peoples are not relics of the past. They continue to steward this land today with care, vitality, and tradition. Their relations are numerous throughout Turtle Island, and they continue to grow. We pay respects to their elders: past, present, and future. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Additionally, in the spirit of reconciliation, you can honor the Indigenous peoples of this land by donating to Native American Lifelines, donating to or visiting the Baltimore American Indian Center & Heritage Museum, and supporting local Indigenous artists. These are only a few suggestions of the many ways we can move towards reconciliation.



BALTIMORE AMERICAN
INDIAN CENTER

THE INDIGENOUS ART GALLERY

Free to the public,
open during regular
BCS box office hours,
Tue - Fri 12PM to 5PM



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DEAR BCS & ARTSCENTRIC COMMUNITIES,

This season, Baltimore Center Stage is proud to once again join forces with ArtsCentric, marking the fourth production we've created together. Over the years, this partnership has blossomed into a tradition of telling powerful, resonant stories that celebrate community, artistry, and connection.

Langston Hughes first debuted *Black Nativity* in 1961 as a soulful retelling of the Nativity story through an African American lens. With its poetic narration, dynamic characters, and a profound exploration of faith, hope, and community, the play remains a cherished classic. This production brings a fresh vibrancy to this enduring work with an original musical score by Cedric D. Lyles, whose compositions infuse the story with rich harmonies, contemporary rhythms, and echoes of gospel traditions. Lyles' visionary arrangements offer audiences a sonic journey that not only honors Hughes' legacy but also breathes new life into the spirit of the season. The production comes to life under the inspired direction of Kevin McAllister, whose staging ensures every moment pulses with energy, emotion, and meaning.

At the heart of *Black Nativity* is a tale both timeless and deeply personal. The story opens with Mary and Joseph seeking refuge, echoing struggles for shelter and belonging that resonate today. As the miraculous birth of Christ unfolds, the narrative shifts from the humble manger to a joyous community celebration, where gospel, dance, and storytelling converge. This production promises to uplift, inspire, and remind us of the unifying power of love and faith.

The partnership between Baltimore Center Stage and ArtsCentric is more than a creative endeavor—it's a celebration of community. Together, these organizations amplify stories that matter, nurturing connections across Baltimore and beyond.

Whether you are experiencing our collaboration for the first time or returning after last year's *Cinderella*, we welcome you with open arms. No matter how you celebrate the season—be it with the warmth of Christmas or the reflection of Kwanzaa, the glow of a menorah or the humble reverence of a manger—our hope is that this story of faith, family, and community stirs joy in your heart and reminds us all of the beauty of coming together.

We are thrilled to share our journey with you and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year. Happy holidays and welcome to *Black Nativity*.

Stevie Walker-Webb
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

Adam Frank
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

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BLACK NATIVITY

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BY LANGSTON HUGHES

DIRECTED BY KEVIN S. MCALLISTER

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CEDRIC D. LYLES

CHOREOGRAPHY BY SHALYCE HEMBY

CAST

HEINZ ADJAKWAH
ENSEMBLE

JUSTIN BURLEY
ENSEMBLE

KYMON CARRIKER
ENSEMBLE

NIAJA DIGGS
ENSEMBLE

JHERMAINE DRAKEFORD
ENSEMBLE

DAVON FLEMING
ENSEMBLE

CANDACE FOREMAN
ENSEMBLE

RYAN GHOLSON
ENSEMBLE

ANAYA GREEN
ENSEMBLE

TRACY HALL
MOTHER

MALSHAUNA HAMM
ENSEMBLE

ASIA HAYNIE
ENSEMBLE

HAROLD S. HENRY III
TEEN

KAYLA JEWEL
ENSEMBLE

JADE MADDEN
ENSEMBLE

AMEENAH MUHAMMAD
ENSEMBLE

DARRIN SCOTT
ENSEMBLE

ANDRE WALKER
TEEN

SYMAYA MILLER
UNDERSTUDY

AMAYA WESTON
UNDERSTUDY

THE CREATIVE TEAM

LANGSTON HUGHES
PLAYWRIGHT

KEVIN S. MCALLISTER
DIRECTOR

CEDRIC D. LYLES
COMPOSER/
MUSIC DIRECTOR

SHALYCE HEMBY
CHOREOGRAPHER

DANIELLE PRESTON
COSTUME DESIGNER

EMILY LOTZ
SCENIC DESIGNER

JORDAN ROSS
STAGE MANAGER

MAX DOOLITTLE
LIGHTING DESIGNER

CEDRIC KHALIL
ASSISTANT STAGE
MANAGER

TYRELL STANLEY
DECK CARPENTER

ANTWAN HAWKINS JR.
PROPS DESIGNER

JEREMIAH DAVISON
ERIC DENSON

CO-SOUND DESIGNERS

DEANA CRUZ-CONNER
ASSISTANT

COSTUME DESIGNER

QUINCY VICKS
ASSISTANT MUSIC

DIRECTOR

JANELL HILL
CREW MEMBER

LARRY PETERSON
WIG DESIGNER

THE MUSICIANS

CEDRIC D. LYLES
KEYBOARD/ORGAN
PIANO CONDUCTOR

QUINCY VICKS
KEYBOARD/ORGAN
PIANO CONDUCTOR

ANTHONY DIX
BASS/KEYBOARD
GENE ALESTOCK
BASS

EVANDER MCLEAN
DRUMS/PERCUSSION

ACT ONE

O Come, All Ye Faithful!
(on the street)

O, Come All Ye Faithful!
(friends and family)

The Sermon (Luke 1:26-35)

"It Came To Pass..." (narration)

My Way's Cloudy

No Room

Oh, Jerusalem in the Morning pt. 1
(Most Done Travelin' / Strangers)

Oh, Jerusalem in the Morning, pt. 2
(Mary, Mary What's the Matter?)

Oh, Jerusalem In The Morning pt. 3
(The Ancestral Birth)

-Themba Mkhathshwa, composer

Oh, Jerusalem In The Morning pt. 4
("And so it was...")

Poor Little Jesus

What You Gonna Name
Your Baby?

Mighty Day / Joy To the World /
Christ Is Born in Judea

"And lo, the Angel..." (narration)

The Shepherds:
Abiding In The Fields

The Shepherds:
No Good Shepherd, part 1

The Shepherds:
No Good Shepherd, part 2

Rise-Up, Shepherd / Go, Tell It!

The Drummer's Song
(Drummer Boy)

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Holy

ACT TWO

"Meeting Tonight"

- an old church medley

Leak In This Old Building

Purpose (Season in God)

Praise Waiteth

Get Away, Jordan

Jesus, You Are pt. 1

Heal My Inner Me

Jesus, You Are pt. 2

Show Me the Way
(The Benediction)

I Appreciate (Bows/Exit)

In addition to original music by composer Cedric D. Lyles, the second act will feature arranged songs that are often sung in the various denominations of Black churches in America.

KEVIN S. MCALLISTER

>Welcome Friends and Family,

I hope this holiday season finds you blessed and highly favored.

Our first reading comes from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and it simply says:

Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

You may be seated.

Welcome to ArtsCentric's production of Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity* at Baltimore Center Stage. Welcome to a place of love where all our differences are looked at fondly and wrapped in acceptance. No matter your denomination, church home, or spiritual connection to a higher being, we all exist to love and be loved. Right?

Turn to your neighbor and say, "Happy Holidays. I love you. Welcome Home."

I'm often asked why we chose to present *Black Nativity* this season. The answer is simple... We wanted to come home. This holiday season, we wanted to sit with all of you, our family, and talk and sing and dance. We wanted to gather with all of you in one space and remind you just how much we love you. We wanted to come home.

Wouldn't the world be a much better place if we all took the time to love our neighbor just because it was the right thing to do? Wouldn't it be nice to know that no matter our faults and mistakes, our fellow man would always forgive us? Wouldn't it be nice to know that no matter where you are in the world, you would be welcomed home?

In 1961, Langston Hughes wrote *Black Nativity* as a reminder to the world that this is possible. Act One is set in biblical times to remind us of the persecutions and rejections we often place on each other. He shows us arduous

travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem—the rejections Mary and Joseph faced before giving birth to the Savior on a bed of straw. He then leaps forward two thousand years to remind us that forgiveness and joy are eternal. Act Two he sets us down in a present-day service and gives you, our family, a chance to reflect on just how good it is to be forgiven, seen, and loved.

We all pass judgment. We all cast aside. We all turn a blind eye. Yet, no matter how much time has passed, we can all humble ourselves and forgive or be forgiven. You need not be religious to understand that we all have the power to make someone's day better. No matter how large or small the gesture, we can create positive change. We can build homes in our communities where anyone is welcomed. We can stand with those who are unlike ourselves and love without limits. It's a beautiful thing to know that theatre can serve as a reminder of that.

Yes, there are lights, sets, sounds, and costumes, but this is so much more than a production. This room we are all currently sharing is a snapshot of the world we all hope to live in. The songs we are all about to sing are a reminder that we can all share one voice for a better world.

The clapping and shouting we hope you will join us in sharing is a reminder that joy and love are contagious. We can live by the principles of 1 Corinthians 13. We can continually be better people every day. We can love without ceasing. Religious or not, we can see our fellow man and welcome them home. It may sound cliché, but ArtsCentric's hope is that this production plays some part in making this world a better place.

As an African American-led organization, ArtsCentric owes it to Langston Hughes to try. As human beings, we simply owe a better world to each other. So come in, sit down, and make yourself at home. We are so glad you're here.

KEVIN S. MCALLISTER

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ARTSCENTRIC



HEINZ ADJAKWAH
(HE/HIM)
ENSEMBLE

Heinz Adjakwah is thrilled to be part of the this production. Previous ArtsCentric credits include: *The Scottsboro Boys* (Willie Roberson), *Cinderella* (Baker/

Ensemble/Featured Dancer), *Technicalor Dream Coat* (Ensemble), *Black Nativity* (Dancer/ Ensemble), *Chicago* (Law Clerk/ Ensemble), *Snapshots* (Lead Character, Damon); DC Area: Dance Place; Marvin Gaye Project, Kennedy Center; American College Dance Conference. Education: BA in Dance and BA in Health Administration and Public Policy from University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



JUSTIN BURLEY
(HE/HIM)
ENSEMBLE

Justin Burley is excited to be back at ArtsCentric. Previous ArtsCentric credits include: *The Scottsboro Boy* (Mr. Tambo), *Once On This Island* (Ton Ton), *Rent*

(Ensemble/ Benny understudy), Other stage credits in and round the Baltimore include: *The Arena Players : SoulMates* (The Music of Ashford and Simpson), *Pippin* (Leading Player), *Aida* (Company), *A Chorus Line* (Company), *Shuttin' Down the Big House* (Charles the Detective), *Wishing Star Theater: Into the Woods* (Prince Charming, The Wolf), *A Christmas Carol* (Old Joe), *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown), *How to Eat like a Child* (Dad, Asst. Director), *The Wind in the Willows* (Asst. Director); FILM/TV: "The Wire" (HBO Original series); EDUCATION: University of Maryland Baltimore County , Towson University.



KYMON CARRIKER
(HE/HIM)
ENSEMBLE

Kymon Carriker is a Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force. After 5 long years, he has returned home to his ArtsCentric family to reprise his role in *Black Nativity*. Previous

ArtsCentric credits include: *Aida* (Mereb U/S), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Jacob), *Memphis*

(Gator), *Chicago* (Ensemble), and *Sincerely Holidays*. EDUCATION: M.Ed and a BA in English from the University of Maryland Global Campus. You can follow him on Instagram: @thesinger09



NIAJA DIGGS
ENSEMBLE

Niaja is proud to be a part of ArtsCentric's production of *Black Nativity*. Previous credits include: ArtsCentric: *For Colored Girls* (ensemble) ArtsCentric: *Cinderella* (ensemble/ Joy u/s)

ArtsCentric: *Aaliyah Tribute* (dancer), *The Musical of the BodyGuard* (starring Deborah Cox) (dancer); Olney Outdoor Live, *Just Arts* (dancer), Expressions Dance Co. (dancer), American College Dance Association (Gala choreographer). Education: AA in Fine Arts of Dance (Anne Arundel Community College) and Expressions Dance Company. She aspires to become a well-rounded performer and continue teaching various dance styles.



JHERMAINE DRAKEFORD
(HE/HIM)
ENSEMBLE

Tenor 1, Possible Alto w/ certain genres (i.e. Jazz, Soul, Gospel, R&B, Pop, and Showtunes). Vocal Performance major at Morgan State University 2001-2007; DC Boys

Choir 1994-1997 (European Tour - Austria, Switzerland, France); ACHS High School Gospel Choir 1997-2000 (Toured Rome, Italy, Pisa, Italy, Lucerne, Switzerland, Nice, France, Barcelona, Spain); Morgan State University Choir 2001-2005; Background Vocalist for several mainstream artists; ArtsCentric: *Sincerely Men* (2015), *Dreamgirls* (2016), *Black Nativity* (2017), *Little Shop of Horrors* (as Audrey II) (2018), *Once On This Island* (as Erzulie) (Sep 2023).



DAVON FLEMING
(HE/HIM)
ENSEMBLE

With a combination of gospel, soul, & jazz the world was bound to know the name Davon Fleming. You may have seen him as a semifinalist on Season 3 of "The Voice" wowing

BIOGRAPHIES

judges every week or from his extensive work as a vocal producer & background singer. He has worked with some of the worlds legendary artist such as Jennifer Hudson, Stephanie Mills Adam Blackstone, & Andrea Brocelli just to name a few. He's also appeared on "Good Morning America," "The Late Night Show," and "The Country Music Awards." He even holds the key to the city of Baltimore for his achievements. Continuing to show that anything is possible, Fleming's star is steady rising with no plans on slowing down.



**CANDACE FOREMAN
ENSEMBLE**
Toby's Dinner Theater:
Dreamgirls (Ensemble).
Regional: *Constellation*
Theater: *Aida* (Ensemble).
ArtsCentric: *For Colored
Girls* (Ensemble), *Once
On This Island* (Ensemble/
Andrea Deveraux U/S),

RENT (Ensemble), *Chicago* (Mona Lipschitz),
Dreamgirls (Ensemble). Film/TV: *The Girl
Who Left Home*, *A Wesley Christmas*, *A
Wesley Christmas Wedding* (BET), Education:
Montgomery College, Southern New
Hampshire University, Artscentric Summer
Institute.



**RYAN GHOLSON
(HE/HIM)
ENSEMBLE**
Regional: ArtsCentric:
Putting it Together, *The
Color Purple*, *Black Nativity*,
Little Shop Of Horrors,
The Wiz, *We Are Proud
To Present a Presentation
About the Herero of*

*Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa,
From the German Sudwestafrika, Between
the Years 1884 - 1915*; Carl J. Murphy: *One
Monkey Don't Stop No Show*, *Orlandus*, *A
Soldier's Play*. Philadelphia Opera: *Porgy and
Bess*; Czech Philharmonic: *Porgy and Bess*;
The Original USA Gospel Singers, Soulful
Symphony, and Jeremy Winston Chorale.



**ANAYA GREEN
ENSEMBLE**
Anaya Green is a
talented actor, singer,
and recording artist from
Baltimore, Maryland.
Known for her captivating
performances in *Crowns*,

Once on This Island, and *A Man's World*,
Anaya is a graduate of the Baltimore School
for the Arts, where she majored in vocal
music. It was there that her passion for the
arts deepened and blossomed. When she's
not on stage, Anaya can be found recording
music for herself and other artists. Driven by
a mission to lead people to God, she brings
purpose and heart to every stage and space
she steps into.



**TRACY HALL
MOTHER**
Holds a Bachelor's
& Master's degree in
Theatre Arts. She currently
works as a Teaching
Artist. She is the Creative
Director for From the Page
to the Stage, her very own
nonprofit organization

that uses Theatre as a vehicle to address
trauma. She is an active alum of Alpha Psi
Omega (National Theater Honor Society).
She is the Director of the Performing Arts
Ministry at Life Music Christian Fellowship
her church home for over 23 yrs. Tracy is very
passionate about the Love of GOD and the
holiday season, so this debut with ArtsCentric
and *Black Nativity* means so much on so many
levels. Tracy would like to thank her family
and friends for their consistent support, and
a special I love you to Alec & Darrius, her
greatest performances.



**MALSHAUNA HAMM
(SHE/HER)
ENSEMBLE**
Malshauna Hamm is
delighted to be a part
of another ArtsCentric
production. Previous
ArtsCentric credits
include: *Cinderella* (Joy),
Dreamgirls (Joann/Les

Styles/Effie (cover), *Women Without Virtue*
with Single Carrot Theatre (Mother Mary
Lange/Bess), *The Wiz* (Aunt Em/Ensemble)
Education: Towson University (BS in
Environmental Science & Studies) Instagram:
@sheishshauna_



**ASIA HAYNIE
ENSEMBLE**
Asia Haynie, also known as
Nina Monii, is a classically
trained vocalist with
expertise in R&B, Gospel,
Jazz, and Pop. She

founded the funk band Nina Monii' & The Fam in 2022 and holds a Bachelor's in Music-Vocal Performance from Morgan State University. A graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, she has won numerous awards, including the Virginia E. Hayes William Opera Prize at the Kennedy Center. Haynie has performed with iconic artists like Bobby McFerrin and Roberta Flack, and aims to establish a music and fine arts conservatory for young adults.



**HAROLD S. HENRY III
TEEN**

Credits: Chesapeake Shakespeare Company: *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Reuben). Midtown Academy: *The Forces of Winter* (Jay). Monologue Workshop: *Camp Hippodrome, A Tour of the Galaxy* (2023), *The Odd Couple* (2024). Independent Film: *Dark Zero 48* (Michael). Education & Training: TWIGS, Baltimore School for the Arts (2022–present); Camp Hippodrome; Faith & Purpose Productions, 1:1 Acting Coaching



**KAYLA JEWEL
(SHE/HER)
ENSEMBLE**

Kayla Jewel is thrilled to be part of this production and to be featured with ArtsCentric for the first time! With a lifelong passion for singing, she

has been involved in theater, musical theater, and choral performances since childhood. Outside of the spotlight, Kayla dedicates her time to early childhood education, where she nurtures and inspires young minds. She deeply values her community at One Shot Church, a local house church, and finds great fulfillment in her faith in Christ. Kayla is also incredibly grateful for the love and support of her family and friends. She is excited to share this performance with you and hopes you enjoy the show!



**JADE MADDEN
(SHE/HER)
ENSEMBLE**

Jade Madden is an award-nominated recording artist and actress based in Maryland, USA. As a

proud alum of Morgan State University, a sister of Sigma Alpha Iota Inc. and the celebrated Director of Worship at her church (*Word of Life*), Jade has formed many great bonds throughout the global music community. She has performed and recorded on esteemed platforms from Carnegie Hall to NBC's "Saturday Night Live" to The BBC PROMS UK! After completing ArtCentric's SOLD OUT run of *Cinderella* in the role of Fairy Godmother, Jade went on to finish her 2nd holiday tour as a featured artist in Italy! Her debut single *Spared* and subsequent single, *Consolation Prize* are both available on all digital platforms. To stay connected, visit Jade's website at www.jademaddensings.com and subscribe today!



**AMEENAH MUHAMMAD
(SHE/HER)**

ENSEMBLE

Ameenah Muhammad is excited to debut at ArtsCentric in *Black Nativity*. She recently moved to Baltimore and was last seen as Celie and Church Lady in *The*

Color Purple at BlackRock Center for the Arts. Previous credits include Dorothy in *The Wiz* at Second Baptist Worship Center. Education: BA in Vocal Performance from Lincoln University of PA. Ameenah credits all her success to God.



**DARRIN SCOTT
ENSEMBLE**

Darrin Scott is an alum of the ArtsCentric Summer Institute and has been a part of the family ever since. Darrin is excited to make his mainstage debut with ArtsCentric. Darrin is proud to return to the

stage after spending time as a multi-genre recording artist and background vocalist singing with artists such as Karen Clark-Sheard and Zacardi Cortez while releasing his own music. Darrin has a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance and a Master's degree in Music Education from Morgan State University where Darrin served as the Choral Librarian and Assistant Conductor for the Morgan State University Choir for 6 years. Recent credits include: Morgan State: *Dreamgirls* (Jimmy Early), Assistant Director; *The Color Purple*. Carver Center Theatre

BIOGRAPHIES

Company: *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo). Darrin credits any and all success that may come to him to the hand of God on his life and is overjoyed for the opportunity to showcase the gifts given to him.



ANDRE WALKER
(HE/HIM)
TEEN

Andre Walker Jr. makes his ArtsCentric debut playing the role of Teen. Andre is a current student in the Baltimore School for the Arts TWIGS program, and a current member

of the Hippodrome Theater Summer Camp. Credits include both stage and film acting. Chesapeake Shakespeare Company: August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Reuben), *Girl in the Woods* (Josh) *Mercy RD* (Joshua Grant); Baltimore Center Stage: *Our Town* (Pre-Show Performer); *Game Showsters*: Commercial (Excited Student); *Starting Over Blues* (Young Melvin); Zion Baptist Church Various Plays (Ensemble) Youth Choir; Johns Hopkins Performers: *The Wiz* (Munchkin/Winky); Howard U Student Film Festival Short Film: *The World We Created* (Lead Actor: Vincent); Anti-Bullying PSA (Bubba)



SYMAYA MILLER
UNDERSTUDY

Symaya Miller is happy to be back at ArtsCentric marking her professional debut following her recent graduation from The University of the Arts with her BFA in

Dance, and minor in musical theater. Her previous ArtsCentric credits include: *The Wiz* (ensemble), along with eight years of training and performing with Artscentric Summer Institute. Symaya's excited to be a part of this amazing cast and she looks forward to many more exciting performances at ArtsCentric.



AMAYA WESTON
(SHE/HER)
UNDERSTUDY

Amaya Weston is pursuing a Bachelors in Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance and Choreography with a minor in African American Studies. She

began training at 11 years old, at Expressions Dance Company in Annapolis MD. Some of Weston's credits include: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide*, *When The Rainbow Is Enuf*, and VCU Dance NOW. She has had her own work showcased in the 2023 Pathfinders Student Choreography Showcase. Weston has performed in the works of MK Bowden, Trebien Pollard and several student works. Outside of VCU, Weston has performed in *The Wiz* with ArtsCentric in Baltimore, MD. You can continue to support her work through Instagram! @mayaaa.movesss



LANGSTON HUGHES
PLAYWRIGHT

Langston Hughes was a defining figure of the 1920s Harlem Renaissance as an influential poet, playwright, novelist, short story writer, essayist, political commentator and social activist. Known as

a poet of the people, his work focused on the everyday lives of the Black working class, earning him renown as one of America's most notable poets.



KEVIN S. MCALLISTER
DIRECTOR

Kevin McAllister is a director, actor, singer, former professor, and Artistic Director of ArtsCentric, which he co-founded. He has directed over 50 productions for ArtsCentric and over

various theatres in the DMV area. Favorites include: *Sincerely, Mel*, *Snapshots*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Chicago*. Outside of the DMV he serves at the Assistant Director Fellow for the national tour and recently closed Broadway production of *Come From Away*. He has won 2 Helen Hayes Award for acting, been nominated for 8. He can also be

heard on the recent Broadway revival cast recording of *Caroline or Change* where he portrayed The Dryer and The Bus. He holds a fulltime position as the Director of Curated Programming at Olney Theatre Center and when not on stage, he works regularly with young minds around the country as a clinician.



**CEDRIC D. LYLES
COMPOSER/MUSIC
DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD/
ORGAN/PIANO
CONDUCTOR**

Cedric D. Lyles is a passionate artist with many roles including administrator, arts manager, educator,

and performing artist. Originally from Washington, D.C., he received musical training as a child from the Levine School of Music: a skilled pianist and musician who has served Toby's Dinner Theatre, Everyman Theater, and Baltimore Center Stage, Olney Theatre Center and other arts organizations in the D.C./Baltimore Metro area. Cedric has a B.A. in Music from Morgan State, and a Graduate Certificate in Arts Management from American University. As a musical director and performer, he focuses on telling a story through music and encouraging actors to make musical choices that support the story. Cedric is also a composer and arranger with many successful works, including *7:32 the musical* (NYMF-2012) and *A Book of Judges: Delilah's Story* (KC-Page to Stage workshop - July 2024). He is a founding board member of ArtsCentric, Inc. and serves as the volunteer Director of Operations and Musical Supervisor.



**SHALYCE HEMBY
CHOREOGRAPHER**

Shalyce Hemby currently serves as Director of Creative Content and Resident Choreographer at ArtsCentric. Her work has been seen at theaters throughout the region including, Toby's

Dinner Theatre, Everyman Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Baltimore Shakespeare Company, Howard University and more. She received a Helen Hayes Nomination for Best Choreography for Toby's Dinner Theater production of *Dreamgirls*. A constant

educator, Shalyce is the current Director of Dance at Oldfields School, and has also worked with many universities, arts organizations, and dance companies. @sugasheadance

**DANIELLE PRESTON
COSTUME DESIGNER**

Danielle Preston (Costume Design) NEW YORK: Lincoln Center: *Where Words Once Were*. RECENT DC AREA: Signature Theater: *Primary Trust, Penelope, Passing Strange*. Round House Theatre: *Topdog/Underdog*. Studio Theatre: *Fat Ham, Clyde's, At The Wedding*. Woolly Mammoth Theatre: *The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes*. Olney Theatre: *Long Way Down Musical, A Nice Indian Boy*. RECENT REGIONAL: Everyman Theatre: *Queens Girl, Black in the Green Mountains*. Barrington Stage Company: *Primary Trust, Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Children's Theater Company: *Locomotion*. Hangar Theatre: *Schoolgirls; Or The African Mean Girls Play, The Realness*. Chicago Opera Theater: *Quamino's Map*. EDUCATION: University of North Carolina School of the Arts: M.F.A. in Costume Design daniellepreston.com @danielleprestondesign

**EMILY LOTZ
SCENIC DESIGNER**

Emily Lotz is a freelance designer and artist. She won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Scenic Design for *The Princess & the Pauper - A Bollywood Tale* at Imagination Stage. Recent credits include *Unseen, Marys Seacole, and Inherit the Windbag* at Mosaic Theater Company, *Crowns and Dreamgirls* at Baltimore Center Stage, *The Wiz* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at ArtsCentric, *The War Boys* for Ally Theatre Company, and *Always...Patsy Cline* at Milwaukee Rep. www.emilylotzdesign.com

**JORDAN ROSS
STAGE MANAGER**

Jordan Ross has worked with ArtsCentric since 2014 as a volunteer, backstage crew, scenic charge, Assistant Stage Manager and Stage Manager. She has worked on various productions throughout the years and is happy to once again be joining ArtsCentric on another creative journey. Jordan graduated from University of Maryland Baltimore County with a BA in Design and Production. She would like to thank God, her family and ArtsCentric for the countless opportunities and unwavering support.

MAX DOOLITTLE

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Mid-Atlantic Region: Ford's Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Woolly Mammoth, Folger Theatre, Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Mosaic Theatre, Theatre Alliance, Theatre J, Rep Stage, The Kennedy Center, The Second City, Imagination Stage, Forum Theatre, Adventure Theatre, ArtsCentric, Constellation Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Academy for Classical Acting, Pointless Theatre Co, NextStop Theatre. NYC includes The Apollo Theatre, Ars Nova, Juilliard School, Theatre Row, New Ohio Theatre, New World Stages. Regional includes Geffen Playhouse, Kitchen Theatre Company, Santa Fe Playhouse, Great Lakes Center for the Arts, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Fulton Theatre. Lighting direction for television includes "Anderson Cooper 360" and "Piers Morgan Live." Aboard Cruise Ships: *Wine Lovers*, *The Musical*. BFA: Ithaca College. MFA: University of Maryland.

CEDRIC KHALIL

(THEY/THEM)

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Khalil has contributed to many past ArtsCentric productions as the Lighting Designer for *The Wiz* and Co-Lighting Designer for *Dreamgirls*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *Snapshots* and Assistant Stage Manager for *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *For Colored Girls*, and *The Scottsboro Boys*. Khalil's professional career began at Toby's Dinner Theatre youth theater as the Production Stage Manager before continuing in roles such as Assistant Technical Director, Costume Designer, and Marketing Director. Stage Manager for Black Trans Women at The Center with Long Wharf Theatre.

ANTWAN HAWKINS JR.

PROPS DESIGNER

Antwan Hawkins Jr., known as "GREEYO," is a Baltimore-based multidisciplinary artist recognized for his artistic dexterity and unapologetic love for the African Diaspora and Black American culture. His childhood in theater honed his skills in acting, singing, dancing, poetry, and lyricism. A graduate of North Carolina Central University with a Bachelor's in Theatre Performance, he mastered light and sound design, carpentry, scenic design, playwriting, and directing. GREEYO has expanded into multimedia and music production, event curation, and

community organizing. He owns LaRae Amoor Studios, a multimedia production and photography studio compound, in Baltimore's Station North Arts District. Most recently, he was Assistant Director for Jordan E. Cooper's *Oh Happy Day* at Baltimore Center Stage. Profound In Brown.

JEREMIAH DAVISON

CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Jeremiah Davison is a Flint, MI, native based in Atlanta, GA. Baltimore Center Stage: *Pride & Prejudice* (Associate Director and Sound Designer.) Select sound design credits: *Clyde's* (Theatrical Outfit); *Into The Side Of A Hill* (Flint Repertory Theatre); National Tour of *Drumfolk 20'-23'* (*Step Afrika!*); *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*, *Do You Love The Dark*, *Hands Up* (Alliance Theatre); *Summer The Musical*, *Cinderella: The Musical*, *Song & Dance* (Aurora Theatre - All Suzie Award Nominated); *That Serious He-Man Ball* (K.L. True Colors Theatre); *The Light* (Horizon Theatre); *Urinetown The Musical*, *Bootycandy*, *Home Town Boy*, *Heather's: The Musical* (Actors Express). Jeremiah is the co-founder and C.O.O of Multiband Studios LLC. Education: BA, Theatre-University of West Georgia; AA, Theatre-Georgia State Perimeter College. He would like to thank God, his wife, family, friends, and mentors for all their support.

ERIC DENSON

CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Eric "Barry" Denson is a producer and live sound engineer for Baltimore Center Stage and Bethel AME Church. Eric has produced for local artist which include: DENSON, Samoris, Kae Roshon, SixTheDJ, Barmelo, Najee, APoetNamedNate, and GREEYO., and live sound for gospel greats such as Maurette Brown Clark, Byron Cage, Anthony Brown, Stephen Heard, and more! Credits: BCS Young Playwrights Festival '24 Education: Frostburg State University

DEANA CRUZ-CONNER

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Deana is grateful to be part of this wonderful production with ArtsCentric at Baltimore Center Stage. Her credits include onstage performances in ArtsCentric's outstanding productions of *The Color Purple*, *Dreamgirls*, *Chicago*, *Sister Act*, *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Cinderella* here at BCS. In the last few years, Deana has been blessed to expand her talents to Costume Design. Her work has been seen in productions at ArtsCentric,

Spotlighters Theatre, and at Silhouette Stages. Deana is delighted to be a member of this phenomenal production team and thankful to God and her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.”

QUINCY VICKS
**ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR/
KEYBOARD/ORGAN
PIANO CONDUCTOR**

Quincy Vicks is excited to be working with ArtsCentric again. Previous ArtsCentric credits include: *Once On This Island* (Papa Ge/Ensemble), *Crowns* (Ensemble), *RENT* (Benny); DC AREA: Olney Theatre Center: *Long Way Down*; Arts on the Horizon: *Off the Page*; Imagination Stage: *Winnie the Pooh* (Understudy), *A Year With Frog and Toad* (Man Bird/Ensemble) [Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences], Adventure Theatre MTC: *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Schroeder), The Keegan Theatre: *Seussical the Musical* (Cat in the Hat) [Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble Musical], *Push the Button* (Hero); Discovery Theater: *How Old is a Hero* (Ernest Green). REGIONAL: Chesapeake Shakespeare Company: *Macbeth* (Macduff) and *Twelfth Night* (Duke Orsino). EDUCATION: BA in Theatre Arts from Morgan State University. Instagram: @qvicks_

LARRY PETERSON
HE/HIM
WIG DESIGNER

Larry Peterson studied theatrical hair and makeup at Howard University. Larry has a passion for the arts and has over 15 years of experience in makeup artistry, hair/wig design, and costuming. He has partnered with Screaming Queens Productions LLC, BlackRock Center for the Arts, and other performance venues as a performer and hair/makeup designer. Larry has worked as the Wig Designer in the productions of *Kinky Boots*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, and *Beautiful at Olney*; *Cinderella* at Baltimore Center Stage; and *The World Goes Round* at Everyman Theatre. Larry is excited to bring his wide array of experience and creative skills to the production of *Black Nativity* at Baltimore Center Stage.

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LEARN MORE AT [ARTSCENTRIC.ORG](https://www.artscentric.org)

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khadija jahmila

BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE 2024/25 SEASON ARTIST

(b. 1993, Maryland) Khadija is an Afro-Caribbean mixed-media artist and creative entrepreneur whose work fuses hand-cut paper and digital collage to explore Afrofuturistic themes. Her vibrant creations celebrate the humanity, beauty, intersectionality, and otherworldliness of the African diaspora. Awarded the NextGen Award by VisArts Rockville, MD, in 2020, Khadija's art has been featured in retail spaces and exhibited across Washington, DC, and Maryland, including notable venues such as Eaton DC, Waller Gallery, 11:Eleven Gallery, and VisArts.

In addition to her artistic practice, Jahmila teaches mixed media art to kindergarten through fifth-grade students at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop and leads weekly art classes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Creative Suitland.

Additionally, she conducts her unique collage series, **Cut It Out: A Dangerously Absurd Paper Collage Making Session**, where she encourages participants to engage with innovative techniques and explore the playful aspects of visual storytelling. These roles underscore Khadija Jahmila's commitment to making art accessible and engaging for a diverse range of ages and abilities.

To explore more of Khadija Jahmila's work and stay updated on her latest projects, visit her website at [KhadijaJahmila.com](https://www.khadijajahmila.com) and follow her on Instagram [@khadija_jahmila](https://www.instagram.com/khadija_jahmila).



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