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2022/23 SEASON



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DIRECTED BY **MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN**

FEBRUARY 10–APRIL 2, 2023

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BY **TONY KUSHNER**

DIRECTED BY **JÁNOS SZÁSZ**

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BY **KENNETH LIN**

DIRECTED BY **TRIP CULLMAN**

MAY 5–JUNE 25, 2023

Photo of Kristolyn Lloyd in *American Prophet* by Margot Schulman.



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STEP AFRIKA!'S MAGICAL MUSICAL HOLIDAY STEP SHOW

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Holiday Step Show Program Book*
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ARENA STAGE MISSION

Arena Stage is the voice of American theater resident in our nation's capital. Focused on American artists, our productions are innovative and representative of stories from across the country. We nurture new plays and reimagine classics. We celebrate our democracy and diversity through a multitude of voices in our productions and community engagement programs to inspire people to action. We produce all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, entertaining, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit.



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stage**
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for american theater



Arena Stage is built on the land of the Piscataway people of the Algonquin-speaking tribes, as well as the lands of the Native American people of the greater Anacostia, Potomac, and Tidewater regions.

ARENA STAGE LEADERSHIP'S NOTE

Joy. Where do we look for joy, where do we find joy?
One quick answer is here—with you—to enjoy
Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show!*

Step Afrika! brings its incredible talent and stepping expertise to the Fichandler Stage to gather us together in a celebration of life. Arena's multi-year partnership with Step Afrika! underscores Arena's core values, including flourishing by building a healthy, dynamic, and powerful artistic community; striving to instill in the public a life-long love and participation in the theater arts; and serving artists and arts professionals; the national, regional, and local communities; and theater through effective partnerships and collaboration at the most sophisticated and professional levels. One of the top African American dance companies in the country, Step Afrika! now finds its home here and touring extensively around the world. You loved *Drumfolk* earlier this year and we are pleased to present this wonderful holiday show for the whole family.

We are grateful for Step Afrika!'s friendship and inspired by their artistry—and we're not the only ones! Founder and Executive Producer C. Brian Williams was recently honored as a 2022 NEA National Heritage Fellow, and Executive Director Lamar Lovelace received the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy's 2022 Meritorious Service Award. Congratulations!

As 2022 closes, we reflect on changes we have felt and observed since everyone's world was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our art form exists only with artists AND audience. Without you, we don't exist. We didn't emerge from the shut-down the same as we were before—neither have you—and we continue to be challenged every day. It's a bright sunshiny day as we write this today and look to the future. Arena's stalwart audiences have also adapted to the many changes, and we look forward to gracefully welcoming you for seasons of storytelling to come.

We hope that you have ample time to spend with family, friends, and loved ones this holiday season. Theater provides a space for empathy and there is much joy to be found at Arena Stage. Who can imagine a better place than the theater to feel collective joy away from our screens and sharing the world with others.

Thank you for spending this special time with us at Arena Stage, and best wishes for a joyous 2023.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly".

Molly Smith
Artistic Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edgar".

Edgar Dobie
Executive Producer,
President of the
Corporation



Photo of Magical Musical Holiday Step Show courtesy of Step Afrika!.

STEP AFRIKA! FOUNDER'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*! After another full year of touring all around the world, we are excited to bring this joyous annual tradition to our home in Washington, DC, and to Arena Stage for the very first time.

Arena Stage is a magical place and the Fichandler is the perfect home for our highly interactive production. Step Afrika! built this performance for both the young and the young at heart, working to create a space where everyone can play, sing along, make music, and dance! This is absolutely my favorite time of the year and after months of performances in Bolivia, Poland, Slovenia, and cities across the USA, I can't wait for you to welcome home the celebrated artists of Step Afrika!. I promise: the more noise you make, the more fun we will have! And besides, who wants to sit still and be quiet for the holidays?

The return of the Holiday Show marks the first of many live performances to continue in 2023. Step Afrika! will hit the road in January with a national tour of more than 30 theaters, including a quick trip to Kuwait for international exchange projects there. We will continue to serve DC-area students in schools, community centers, and after-school programs with our award-winning arts education programs, and after a three-year hiatus, our annual Summer Steps with Step Afrika! camp will return in August 2023 to train a new generation of young people in the art form of stepping!

Step Afrika! never tires in serving the community, and we are glad to have you with us. Visit stepafrika.org to learn more about our work on stages and in schools, and join our newsletter to get updates from DC and beyond.

Thank you so much for choosing to share your holidays with us! We wish you a joyful season filled with all your favorite things.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'CB' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

C. Brian Williams

Founder & Executive Producer, Step Afrika!

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ABOUT

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the world's first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping—a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument. Step Afrika! promotes stepping as a contemporary dance genre through critically acclaimed performances and arts education programs. Creatively engaging audiences in this nascent art form, the Company creates full-length productions that expand on stepping's unique American history.

With 14 full-time dancers and an administrative team of seven, Step Afrika! is one of the top 10 African American dance companies in the world. The Company reaches thousands each year through a 50-city tour of American colleges and theaters and performs globally as an official U.S. Cultural Ambassador. Acclaimed works, such as *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence* and *Drumfolk*, tour to major U.S. cities. Step Afrika! is prominently featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture with an interactive exhibit on the art form of stepping.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

C. Brian Williams, *Founder & Executive Producer*

Lamar Lovelace, *Executive Director*

Mfoniso Akpan, *Artistic Director*

Artis Olds, *Director of Arts Education and Community Programs*

Kristen L. Taylor, *Company and Communications Manager*

Margo Cunningham, *Marketing Manager*

Misha Michel, *Arts Education and Production Assistant*

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Arena Stage
Molly Smith, Artistic Director | Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer

PRESENTS

STEP AFRIKA!'S MAGICAL MUSICAL HOLIDAY STEP SHOW

DIRECTED BY MFONISO AKPAN

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, STEP AFRIKA!
C. BRIAN WILLIAMS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, STEP AFRIKA!
MFONISO AKPAN

ASSISTANT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
CONRAD R. KELLY II

PRODUCTION & LIGHTING DESIGNER
MARIANNE MEADOWS*

SOUND DESIGNER
BYRON HURST

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION DESIGNER
YANNICK GODTS

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
MISHA MICHEL

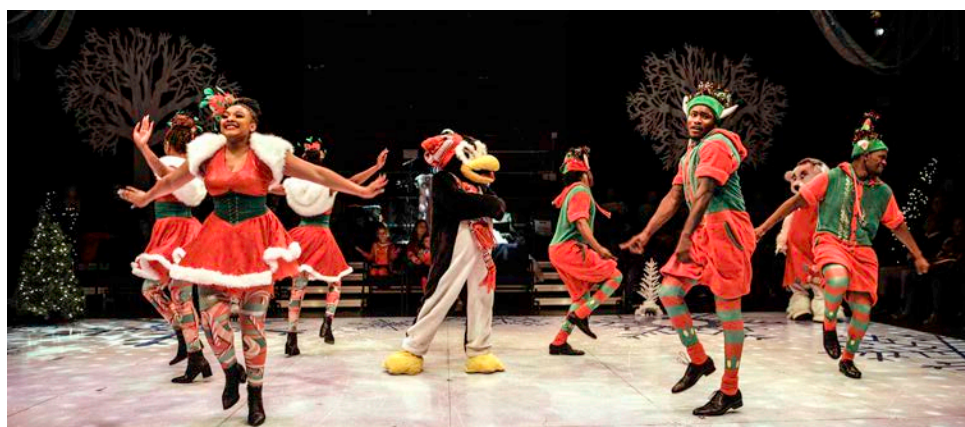
Support for Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show* is provided by **Virginia McGehee Friend**.

This production was also made possible by the **DC Commission on Arts and Humanities**.

We are grateful to **Destination DC** for their promotional support of this production.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Please turn off all electronic devices. Eating and drinking are not permitted inside the theater.
Masks must be worn at all times during the performance.

* Member of the United Scenic Artists Local USA 829



Photos of Magical Musical Holiday Step Show courtesy of Step Afrika!

PROGRAM / CAST / FOR THIS PRODUCTION

PROGRAM

- 1. Twelve Drummers Drumming
- 2. Jabulani!
- 3. The March of the Nutcrackers
- 4. The Arctic Step Challenge
- 5. DJ Nutcracker’s Yuletide Step Workshop
- 6. Christopher’s Gift
- 7. Home for the Holidays




CAST *(in alphabetical order)*

Jeeda Barrington Ariel Dykes Robert Hamilton Kamala Hargrove
Kayshon Hawkins Akievia Hickman Jabari “Solo” Jones
Conrad R. Kelly II Isaiah O’Connor Na’imah Ray
Valencia Odeyka Emonni Springer Ericka Still Brie Turner
Joseph Vasquez Pelham Warner Robert Warnsley

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Assistant Stage Manager.....	MISHA MICHEL
Show Caller.....	STEPHEN BUBNIAK
Production Assistants.....	KELSEY NICOLE JENKINS, TREVION WALKER
COVID-19 Compliance Officer.....	TREVOR COMEAU
Props Technician.....	GRACE TRUDEAU
Light Board Operator	SCOTT FOLSOM
Lighting Assistant	HAYLEY PARNELL
Audio Engineer	ALEX CLOUD
Wardrobe Supervisors.....	ADELLE GRESOCK, ALICE HAWFIELD

SOCIALLY SPEAKING

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CAST



JEEDA BARRINGTON is a native of Glenarden, MD and graduate of Bowie State University, earning his Bachelor's in Music Technology and a master's degree in Human

Resources. A member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc, Jeeda has served as the choreographer for various traveling step and "partywalk" teams. He continues his love for rhythms through disc jockeying at events across the United States.



ARIEL DYKES is a native of Gainesville, Florida. She received an Associate of Arts Degree in Musical Theatre from Santa Fe College and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the

University of Florida. She has trained in traditional and post-modern dance, jazz, voice, and acting, and has worked with such artists as Ailey Dancers' Nathaniel Hunt and Samantha Barriento, Tony Award winner Scott Coulter, and Galen Hooks. She was introduced to stepping and strolling as a member of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she choreographed step routines for the chapter and UF's National Panhellenic Council. This is her first season with the Company.



ROBERT HAMILTON is excited to be a part of the Step Afrika! cast once more. Since his first appearance last year, he has attended William Esper Studio in NYC in

order to further his training as an actor. Robert also serves as the Assistant Technical Director at Imagination Stage. He wishes every audience member an immersive experience in this *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show* and a very Happy Holidays to you and yours.



KAMALA HARGROVE was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, and started dancing at the age of four. She trained professionally in ballet, Horton, Graham, West

African, jazz, and hip hop at the Alvin Ailey School and Dance Theater of Harlem until she was 18. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Theater, and Dance with a concentration in Dance and Choreography at Trinity College. Since graduating from Trinity College, Kamala has appeared in various music videos and live performances. She has performed with artists including Estelle, Mr. Vegas, Wizkid, and French Montana. She has also worked as a Teaching Artist in New York City, teaching elementary, middle, and high school students. This is Kamala's first season with the Company.



KAYSHON HAWKINS is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Henderson, North Carolina. He has been teaching all ages dance for four years, specializing in hip-hop. He

taught at The Pointe! Dance Studio in Greensboro, NC, for two years. Kayshon graduated from Fayetteville State University with a bachelor's degree in Theatre in 2018, with a profession in audio and sound.



AKIEVIA HICKMAN is a native of Tallahassee, Florida, and holds an MBA from Florida A&M University. She is a member of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma

Theta Sorority, Inc. In addition to being trained in hip-hop and jazz, Akievia has studied modern and contemporary dance under the direction of Shepiro Hardemon as a member of Mahogany Dance Theatre. Akievia was introduced to



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stepping in high school when she joined the Code Red Step team and furthered her experience in college as a member of the Rampage Step Team.



JABARI "SOLO" JONES is a Detroit, MI native who began dancing at the age of 8, inspired by recording artist Usher's "You Don't Have to Call" music video. A self-taught dancer, his first

ever taste of performing was dancing in the 79th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Jabari has performed with Aloe Blacc, Missy Elliot, Lil Baby, City Girls, 2 Chainz, Rick Ross, and Lil Yachty and choreographed projects for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. In addition to his extraordinary dance credits, Jabari is also an actor, appearing in productions of *College Boyfriends*, Nick Cannon's *WildNOut*, BET's *American Soul*, and Sophia Nahli Allison's *Eyes on the Prize: Hallowed Ground*. Jabari studied English at Morehouse College and he is a proud member of The Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc where he served as Stroll Master.



CONRAD R. KELLY II (Assistant Artistic Director, *Step Afrika!*) is a native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he attended Dillard High School of the Visual and Performing Arts. While

attending Florida A&M University, he became a member of the Marching 100 and the Strikers. After college, Conrad became a soloist for The Rolle Project in Las Vegas as well as a dance instructor with Studio 305, where he regularly taught classes in hip-hop, contemporary, and jazz dance. He has won numerous awards as a choreographer and dancer. Conrad is a two-time recipient of the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities' prestigious Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program. He plans to use his extensive performing and teaching

experiences to launch a mentoring program for young male dancers.



ISAIAH O'CONNOR is a native of Miami, Florida. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. In college, Isaiah joined the

Strikers Dance Troupe under the direction of Shepiro Hardemon and studied hip-hop, modern, and urban soul. He aspires to use his talents to not only perform on stages across the world, but to give back to those who helped him along the way. This is Isaiah's first season with Step Afrika!.



NA'IMAH RAY is a native New Yorker who received a BFA in Dance from Montclair State University. She trained with dancer Dwana Smallwood

throughout her youth and was first introduced to stepping in middle school. She joined a step team at age 11 and began competing around New York City. She has trained with artists Earl Mosley, Christian Von Howard, and Beatrice Capote, and participated in dance programs at The Ailey School and Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts. Na'imah performed as a Centennial Stepper with her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This is her first season with the Company.



VALENCIA ODEYKA EMONNI SPRINGER is a native of Brooklyn, New York. She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and served as the first "Stand Queen" (captain)

with the Ambassadors of Sound Marching band at Virginia Union University. She studied ballet, jazz, African, hip-hop, and contemporary dance at Restoration Youth

WHO'S WHO

Arts Academy. Valencia has performed with Forces of Nature, Dance Africa (Brooklyn), and as part of a live installation entitled "A Primordial Place." She also worked as a social studies and science teacher, dance teacher/coach, guest choreographer for local New York/Virginia majorette teams, and as a model for New York and Richmond, Virginia, fashion weeks. Valencia is a proud member of the Nu Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and the Eta Psi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary band sorority.



ERICKA STILL is a native of St. Petersburg, Florida. She began her training at SADA under the direction of Paulette W. Johnson, where she studied tap, ballet, jazz, African, and

contemporary dance. Ericka discovered the art form of stepping in middle school as a part of the AKAdemy Exquisite Gems program. Ericka received a Bachelor of Arts in Health Science: Pre-Occupational Therapy and she minored in Rehabilitation Management from Florida A&M University. Throughout college, she studied under the direction of Shepardo Hardemon as a member and Co-Assistant Artistic Director of Mahogany Dance Theatre. This is Ericka's first season with the Company.



BRIE TURNER is a native from Lithonia, Georgia. She graduated magna cum laude from Howard University with a BA in Strategic, Legal, and Management

Communications. Brie began her formal dance training in 2015, which prepared her to serve as the co-captain (2020-2021) and captain (2021-2022) of the Howard University Bisonettes Dance Ensemble. Brie is a Spring 2020 initiate of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated's Quintessential Alpha chapter where she

served as the Chapter President and stroll mistress. This is Brie's first season with the Company.



JOSEPH VASQUEZ hails from Guttenberg, New Jersey, and has received a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. In college,

Joseph danced with the Bachata Performance Team, where he choreographed and led the team for four years. Joseph is a member of Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity Incorporated, and performs with The Revels, a stroll team led by Francisco Pozo and Carlos Zapata. This is Joseph's first season with the Company.



PELHAM WARNER is a native of The Bronx, New York and has attended Dutchess Community College. A self-taught dancer of Dancehall and student of Afro Street

styles, his true passion can be found in the rhythm and beats of his percussive stepping style. As a teenager, Pelham was a member of The Players Club Steppers. He then found his home stepping with The Order of the Feather Fraternity, where he served as the team's Step Master and captain for five years. Pelham is an accomplished teaching artist, teaching step to students in the greater New York City area for several years. He recently performed in the capella musical The Movement by Kathy D. Harrison at The National Black Theater Festival. He is blessed to have the opportunity to continue his passion for stepping, performing, and teaching during his fourth season with Step Afrika!.



ROBERT WARNSLEY is a native of Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Robert learned to step and

stroll as a member of the Eta Tau chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In addition to stepping, he practices hip-hop and Chicago-style footworking.

CREATIVE

C. BRIAN WILLIAMS (*Founder and Executive Producer, Step Afrika!*) is a native of Houston, Texas, and graduate of Howard University. He recently earned the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts—a 2022 National Heritage Fellow from the National Endowment for the Arts, for contributions to American heritage and culture. Brian first learned to step as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Beta Chapter, in the Spring of 1989. While living in Southern Africa, he began to research the percussive dance tradition of stepping, exploring the many sides of this exciting, yet under-recognized American art form and founded Step Afrika! in 1994. Williams has performed, lectured and taught in Europe, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and throughout the United States. He is the founder of the monumental Step Afrika! International Cultural Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa. Through Williams' leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's newest cultural exports and inspired the designation of Step Afrika! as Washington, DC's official "Cultural Ambassador." Williams has been cited as a "civic/community visionary" by *NV Magazine*, a "nation builder" by the National Black Caucus of State

Legislators, and a "minority business leader" by the *Washington Business Journal*. He is the recipient of numerous Artist Fellowships; the Distinguished Arts Award from the Coalition for African-Americans in the Performing Arts; the Pola Nirenska Award for Contemporary Achievement in Dance. He is also featured in *Soulstepping*, the first book to document the history of stepping. He also earned the 2008 Mayor's Art Award for Innovation in the Arts and has led the company to multiple Metro DC Dance Awards for "Outstanding New Work," "Excellence in Stage Design/Multimedia," and "Outstanding Group Performance." In 2018, Williams received the Mayor's Arts Award for Visionary Leadership from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

MFONISO AKPAN (*Director, Magical Musical Holiday Step Show / Artistic Director, Step Afrika!*) has trained extensively in tap, ballet, jazz, modern, African dance and step. While attending the State University of New York at Stony Brook, she majored in biochemistry and cultivated her stepping skills as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Mfon began her training at the Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Apollo Theater, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Lincoln Center. Mfon toured with the off-Broadway show *Hoofin' 2 Hittin'*, where she was a featured stepper and dancer.

MARIANNE MEADOWS (*Lighting & Production Designer*) is delighted to be back at Arena Stage following the run of *Drumfolk* in June 2022, the home for her grad school internship many moons ago. She is a Resident Designer for *Solas Nua* (*Johnny Meister and the Stitch, The Smuggler*), Open Circle (where she also serves as a board member), The Washington Stage Guild, Scena Theatre, Theatre Lab, and Histroio.



Previous productions include *Eleanor*, *The Backguards* (Ford's Theatre), *Quills* (Helen Hayes nomination) and *The Dead Monkey* (Woolly Mammoth), *Old Wicked Songs* (Helen Hayes nomination) and *The Desk Set* (Studio Theatre), *The Chosen* (Helen Hayes nomination, Theater J), *The Adding Machine* (Helen Hayes nomination, Washington Jewish Theatre). Marianne is a member of United Scenic Artists local 829 with a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, MFA from the University of Washington with additional training at Lester Polakovs' Studio and Forum of Stage Design, NYC. In 2004, she received Theatre Lobby's Mary Goldwater Award.

BYRON HURST (*Sound Designer*) is a Harlem-born indigo child with an old soul and deep musical roots. He has spent the plus side of 15 years mixing tours ranging from Broadway musicals to concert attractions with some of your favorite international artists. When not at Arena Stage as the Assistant Sound and Video Supervisor, Byron regularly mixes high-profile events in the DMV and frequently returns to New York to re-invest in his community. He's blessed with the opportunity to design and guide eager technicians as they learn to operate the sound system at New York's Harlem Stage located on Convent Avenue (just up the hill from the street where He spent his youth). With a big heart for the arts, Byron firmly believes that vibrational frequencies are the fabric of the Universe—the timbre and cadence of the human voice and body changes lives. Combined with a story and melodious vibrations, Sound is a universal language that translates through all barriers real and imagined.

ARENA STAGE LEADERSHIP

MOLLY SMITH (*Artistic Director*) has served as artistic director since 1998. Her 40 directing credits at Arena Stage include large-scale musicals, like *Catch Me If You Can*, *Anything Goes*, Disney's *Newsies*, *Carousel*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *Cabaret*, *South Pacific*; new plays, like *Celia and Fidel*, *Sovereignty*, *The Originalist*, *Camp David*, *Legacy of Light*, *The Women of Brewster Place*, *How I Learned to Drive*; and classics like *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *The Great White Hope*, and *All My Sons*. Her directorial work has also been seen Off-Broadway at 59E59 in New York, Portland Center Stage, Canada's Shaw Festival, The Court Theatre, The Old Globe, Asolo Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, Trinity Repertory, Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, Montreal's Centaur Theatre and Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska, which she founded and ran from 1979-1998. Molly has been a leader in new play development for over 40 years. She is a great believer in first, second and third productions of new work and has championed projects, including *Dear Evan Hansen*; *Next to Normal*; *Passion Play*, a cycle; and *How I Learned to Drive*. She led the re-invention of Arena Stage, focusing on the architecture and creation of the Mead Center for American Theater and positioning Arena Stage as a national center for American artists through its artistic programming. During her time with the company, Arena Stage has workshopped more than 100 productions, produced 39 world premieres, staged numerous second and third productions, and been an important part of nurturing nine projects that went on to have a life on Broadway. In 2014, Molly made her Broadway debut directing *The Velocity of Autumn*, following its critically acclaimed run at Arena Stage. She was awarded

honorary doctorates from American University and Towson University. In 2018, she was honored as Person of the Year by the National Theatre Conference and inducted into the Washington DC Hall of Fame. In 2020, she was awarded the Director of Distinction in Cairo, Egypt, from the Academy of Arts. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, she developed the concept for two online films, *May 22, 2020* and *The 51st State*, overseeing the production direction as well as directing pieces within the films. She also spearheaded a variety of other new online content, including a weekly talk show *Molly's Salon*, during the live performance hiatus.

EDGAR DOBIE (*Executive Producer*) Born in Vernon, British Columbia, a village next to the Rocky Mountains (three years after Arena had its first performance in 1950), I am one of five brothers raised by my Dad Edgar, a mechanic and small businessman, and Mom Connie, a telephone operator and union organizer. I am the only Dobie to make a career in theater. Luckily for me, drama was an arts elective I was offered at the tender age of 12 so I hung up my hockey skates and joined the drama class, led by teacher Paddy Malcolm and her fledgling Powerhouse Community Theater after school. By the time I graduated from high school, we volunteers had built ourselves a 200-seat, fully equipped theater on its own piece of land in the center of town and found a sold-out audience for the full season of plays we had on offer. That experience taught me so many lessons about the power of theater to foster collaboration and share meaningful stories, as well as the public values that attach themselves to building a safe place where everyone is welcome. All those lessons served me well as a managing leader and producer both sides of the border and both sides of the commercial and non-profit theater divide. Arriving here in Southwest with my

good wife Tracy and our daughter Greta Lee in 2009 makes me feel like I am well-equipped to do a good job for you all.

This theater operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association.



The actors and stage managers are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



The Director and Choreographer are members of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

Musicians are members of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 161-710.

Arena Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theater.





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The cast of *The Pajama Game*. Photo by Margot Schulman.



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Arena Stage gratefully acknowledges the many foundations and corporations who support the theater's work by contributing to the Annual Fund. These gifts make it possible for the theater to continue presenting high-quality productions and innovative education programs that strengthen the community in which we live. The following organizations are donors as of December 2, 2022.

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We hope you have a wonderful and welcoming night at the theater and thank Trustee **Sheila Stampfli** for her sponsorship of the House Management Team.

The Arena Stage Costume Shop is generously supported by, and named for,
**Lola C. Reinsch and the
Reinsch Pierce Family Foundation.**



THEATER STAFF

Artistic DirectorMolly Smith
 Executive ProducerEdgar Dobie
 Founding DirectorZelda Fichandler
 (1924-2016)
 Founding Executive
 Director..... Thomas C. Fichandler
 (1915-1997)

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Associate Artistic DirectorTeresa Sapien
 Dramaturg.....Jocelyn Clarke
 Literary Manager.....Otis C. Ramsey-Zoe
 Artistic Associate, CastingJoseph Pinzon
 Artistic Development
 CoordinatorMelissa Singson
 Artistic Development FellowZoe Lillis*
 Current Commissioned Writers.....The Bengsons,
 Lee Cataluna, Kia Corthron,
 Nathan Alan Davis, Emily Feldman,
 Idris Goodwin, David Henry Hwang,
 Calleen Sinnette Jennings, Kenneth Lin,
 Octavio Solis, Vera Starbard, Lauren Yee,
 Karen Zacarias, Zack Zadek

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 Corporate Treasurer.....Joe Berardelli
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 Kramer Levin Robbins Russell
 Controller.....John Monnett
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 Accounting Associate.....Mark Runion
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 Human Resources.....Maria Lee Lewis

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 Marketing Department Assistant.....Imani Pugh

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 Manager, Email and
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 and Media StrategyRyan Impagliazzo
 Manager, Digital and Social Media.....Juliana Avery
 Associate, Marketing
 and MediaAnastasia St. Hilaire
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Senior Manager, Web Experience
 and InnovationRichard Johnson

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 Box Office Strategy.....Marsha Kangas
 Managers, Box Office StrategyNathan Boese,
 Jessica Comstock,
 Marion Levy Qualls
 Lead Sales AssociateCole Graham
 Patron Services Associates.....Jacob Gross,
 Jocelyn Harris, Caroline Hunt,
 Colin O'Bryan, Frances Pepper,
 Michael Riga, Sabrina Zillinger

Associate Director, Event Rentals
 & Audience ExperienceIsaac Evans
 Manager, Events and Rentals....Chrystal Vaughan
 Groups, Events, and
 Rentals AssociatesAisha Noma,
 Trevor Haren, Mary Helen Pryal
 Visitor Services ManagerJody Barasch
 Lead House ManagerAndrew Rampy
 House Managers.....Ric Birch,
 Daniel Ricci
 Patron Services Fellow.....Bianca Chauntell Taylor*

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 Senior Artistic Advisor.....Anita Maynard-Losh
 Director of EducationAshley Forman
 School Programs ManagerRebecca Campana
 Community Programs ManagerMauricio Pita
 Training Programs Manager.....Mari Andrea Travis
 Community Engagement
 Programs CoordinatorZoe Hall
 School Programs FellowKayla Warren*
 Community Programs Fellow.....Savanna Morgan*

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Assistant Kiana Livingston
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Assistant General
Manager Katharine Templeton
Company Manager Maddie Newell
General and Production
Management Coordinator Jenna Murphy

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and Operations Travis Armbuster
System Administrator Brian Oh
Help Desk Associate Edward Wieland
Operations Director Paul Reagan
Lead Building Technician Keaun Windear
Building Technician Larry Serious
Porters Tevin Smith, Lawrence Wise
Stage Door Attendant Kay Rogers

PRODUCTION

Director of Production Robert Hand
Production Manager Trevor A. Riley
Assistant Production
Manager Rachel Crawford

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Resident Production
Stage Manager Christi B. Spann

SCENIC

Technical Director Natalie Bell
Associate Technical Director Zachary Fullenkamp
Scene Shop Supervisor Travis Smith
Charge Scenic Artist Li Qiang
Carpenters Matthew Grisdela, Julia Junghans,
Hannah Martin, Logan McDowell
Frank Miller, Jess Rich, Erick Boscana

PROPERTIES

Properties Director Jennifer Sheetz
Associate Properties Director..Lance Pennington
Assistant Properties Director Jonathan Borgia
Head Props Artisan Niell DuVal
Props Artisan Kyle Handziak
Props Assistants Alekx Shines,
Grace Trudeau

LIGHTS

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Assistant Lighting Supervisor Paul Villalovoz
Electricians Scott Folsom, Kelsey Swanson
Lighting Fellow Hayley Garcia Parnell*

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Assistant Sound and
Video Supervisor Byron Hurst
Sound And Video
Shop Technician Timothy M. Thompson
Sound Technicians Lex Allenbaugh,
Alex Cloud, Andrew Moberley

COSTUMES

Costume Director Joseph P. Salasovich
Associate Costume Director Cierra Coan
Draper Erika Krause, Carol Ramsdell
First Hands Michele Macadaeag,
Elizabeth "Liz" Spillsbury
Craftsperson Deborah Nash
Wardrobe Supervisors Adelle Gresrock,
Alice Hawfield
Wigs, Hair, and
Makeup Supervisor Jaime Bagley
Costume Assistant Kathleen Crescenzo
Costume and
Costumes Fellow TyQuiria Fountain*

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ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY **JIM LICHTSCHEIDL**

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