

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:****Arena Stage**Anastasia St. Hilaire, [asthilaire@arenastage.org](mailto:asthilaire@arenastage.org)**Print Shop PR**Nicole Capatasto, [nicole@printshoppr.com](mailto:nicole@printshoppr.com)**“DUSTED OFF AND SPIT-SHINED FOR A NEW GENERATION”****ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR  
75TH SEASON OPENER*****DAMN YANKEES*****Music and Lyrics by RICHARD ADLER and JERRY ROSS****Book by GEORGE ABBOTT and DOUGLASS WALLOP****Based on the Novel *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant* by Douglass Wallop****New Adaptation by WILL POWER and DOUG WRIGHT****Additional Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS****Directed and Choreographed by SERGIO TRUJILLO**

(Washington, DC) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater steps up to the plate for its monumental 75th Anniversary Season with a sizzling revival of ***Damn Yankees***, launching the 2025/26 Season in grand style. Today, Arena is thrilled to announce the cast and creative team for this seductively retooled take on the all-American musical, which blends baseball, devilish deals, and one unforgettable femme fatale in a story bursting with humor, heart, and heat. The all-star lineup behind this new adaptation includes co-adaptors Lucille Lortel Award winner **Will Power** (*The Power*) and Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner **Doug Wright** (*I Am My Own Wife*), with additional lyrics by Tony Award winner **Lynn Ahrens** (*Ragtime*). Leading the charge of this powerhouse production is Tony Award winner **Sergio Trujillo** (*Ain't Too Proud*) as both director and choreographer. *Damn Yankees* runs **September 9 – November 9, 2025**, in the **Fichandler Stage**. Press Night will be held on Friday, September 19. For information and tickets, visit [arenastage.org/yankees](https://arenastage.org/yankees).

The on-stage roster for *Damn Yankees* will include **Giuseppe Bausilio** (*Hamilton*), **Raúl Contreras** (*Sunset Boulevard*), **Deanna Cudjoe** (*Smash*), Grammy Award nominee **Quentin Earl Darrington** (*Once on This Island*), Tony Award nominee **Jordan Donica** (*Camelot*), **John Michael Fiumara** (*Hamilton*), **Rayanne Gonzales** (*The Phantom of the Opera*), **Danielle Marie Gonzalez** (*Beetlejuice* National Tour), **Michael Harmon** (*MJ The Musical*), **Nehal Joshi** (*The Phantom of the Opera*), **Ryo Kamibayashi** (*The Outsiders*), **Bryonha Marie** (*Our Town*), **Georgia Monroe** (*Sunset Boulevard*), **Keenan McCarter** (Signature Theatre's *Hair*), two-time Tony Award

nominee **Rob McClure** (*Mrs. Doubtfire*), **Kevin Munhall** (*Anastasia*), **J Savage** (*Smash*), **Justin Showell** (*Floyd Collins*), **Sarah Anne Sillers** (Olney Theatre's *Frozen*), **Jordyn Taylor** (Arena's *Unknown Soldier*), **Alysha Umphress** (*On the Town*), **Ana Villafañe** (*On Your Feet!*), **Drake Leach** (Signature Theatre's *Into the Woods*), and **Dani Spieler** (*A Bronx Tale*).

"Placing this classic musical in the 2000s-era Yankees dynasty we all remember so well has been thrilling. Our goal has been to honor the show's heart while bringing its characters, rhythms, and spirit into the modern age," shared **Trujillo**. "This version is bold, fresh, and rooted in a contemporary cultural understanding. I'm so proud to be sharing this work at Arena Stage, a place that celebrates both legacy and innovation."

Set in a time when the Bronx was home to a seemingly unbeatable lineup of MLB superstars, a die-hard baseball fan makes a deal with the devil to help his rival team clinch the pennant, only to find himself torn between fame, temptation, and the life he left behind. Featuring an iconic score filled with hits like "Whatever Lola Wants" and "Who's Got the Pain?" from **Richard Adler** and **Jerry Ross**, this irresistible musical comedy blends high-stakes romance and just the right touch of mischief. Boasting all the elements that made it famous, this all-star adaptation honors the heart of the original story by **George Abbott** and **Douglass Wallop**—immersing audiences in a whirlwind of love, laughter, ego, and sacrifice.

"For 70 years, *Damn Yankees* has held its place as a cornerstone of American musical theater," said Arena Stage Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**. "Brimming with ambition and heart, it's a story of yearning, of love, the dreams we chase and the moral crossroads that can define or destroy us—a narrative as poignant today as it was at its debut. We're honored to introduce this reimagined, iconic musical to a new generation, infused with fresh energy and timeless soul."

**Trujillo** leads a championship-caliber team of creatives that includes four-time Tony Award-nominated set designer **Robert Brill** (*Hell's Kitchen*), two-time Tony-Award winning costume designer **Linda Cho** (*The Great Gatsby*), Drama Desk Award-nominated lighting designer **Philip S. Rosenberg** (*BOOP! The Musical*), Tony Award-nominated sound designer **Walter Trarbach** (*SpongeBob SquarePants*), five-time Tony Award-nominated projections designer **Peter Nigrini** (*Hell's Kitchen*), three-time Drama Desk Award-winning wig and hair designer **Charles G. LaPointe** (*Death Becomes Her*), Drama Desk Award-winning illusion designer **Paul Kieve** (*Ghost*), Emmy and Grammy Award-nominated score supervisor **David Chase** (NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!*), Tony Award-nominated music supervisor and arranger **Greg Anthony Rassen** (*Bandstand*), three-time Tony Award-winning orchestrator **Doug Besterman** (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), and music director **Adam Rothenberg** (*Sunset Boulevard*). New York casting is by **The TRC Company / Tara Rubin, CSA, Merri Sugarman, CSA** and DC casting is by **Raiyon Hunter**. The production stage manager is **Christi B. Spann** and the assistant stage managers are **Stefania Giron Zuluaga** and **Sara Gehl**.

#### **CAST BIOGRAPHIES** (*in alphabetical order*)

**Giuseppe Bausilio** (*Peña/Ensemble*) is an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, cinematographer, and producer born and raised in Switzerland. His brother is a former ballet dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet and his sister is a carpenter! Giuseppe began dancing at

the age of three under the tutelage of his parents and made his Broadway debut as Billy in *Billy Elliot: The Musical* at just 11 years old. Broadway: *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *Cats*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Hamilton*, *Sunset Boulevard*. Film/TV: Alfie in *The Next Step*, *Ode to Passion*, *Dead Man Down*. He's excited to be making his Arena Stage debut! Proud Brazilian-Italian-Swiss! Speaks seven languages. Instagram: [@giuseppebausilio](#)

**Raúl Contreras** (*Ensemble / Dance Captain*), originally from Monterrey, Mexico, was just seen in the ensemble of *Sunset Boulevard* on Broadway starring Nicole Scherzinger. He previously served as dance captain, swing, and understudy for Santiago in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* on Broadway. You can catch him as a featured dancer in the upcoming feature film *Kiss of the Spider Woman* starring Jennifer Lopez. He danced for Ballet Metropolitano de Monterrey, Metamorphosis Dance Collective, and Ballet Hispánico. He has served as a teacher, choreographer, and artistic director for Universidad de Monterrey's Dance Group, and as a guest teacher for Cirque du Soleil, Steps on Broadway, and Broadway Dance Center. He is a graduate of the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey with a BFA in Contemporary Dance, and has trained with Comunidad de Danza Urbana, Martha Graham School, and Universidad de Monterrey.

**Deanna Cudjoe** (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut in *Damn Yankees!* Broadway: *Smash* (OBC, Ensemble, u/s Anita). Int'l Tour: *West Side Story* (Consuelo, u/s Anita). Regional: *My Best Friend's Wedding* (Ensemble, u/s Kimmy), Disney's *Frozen* (Swing), Ogunquit Playhouse. BFA in Dance, UNCSCA. Voice: Marianne Wells. Endless love and gratitude to God, her family, and amazing team at Lakey Wolff & Co. and Pilot Management! Always, Luke 1:37 [@deannacudjoe](#)

**Quentin Earl Darrington** (*Joe Boyd*), known as "Q," was most recently seen leading the Broadway-bound musical *3 Summers of Lincoln* at La Jolla Playhouse. A commanding presence on Broadway, he has starred in *MJ the Musical* (Grammy and Outer Critics nominations), *Once on This Island* (Outer Critics nomination), *Cats*, *Ragtime*, and *A New Brain* at City Center. Q is also a veteran of the national tours of *Memphis*, *The Color Purple*, *The Lion King*, and *Ragtime*, and has led acclaimed regional productions at The Kennedy Center, Paper Mill Playhouse, The Muny, and others. On television, Q has guest-starred/recurred on CBS' *Blue Bloods*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Madam Secretary*, *The Good Fight*, *The Code*, and NBC's *The Blacklist*. He lives and works by the truth of Philipians 3:12-14

**Jordan Donica** (*Joe Hardy*) is a Tony-nominated American actor, singer, writer, and director celebrated for his dynamic artistry across Broadway and television. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, he earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from Otterbein University. Donica made his Broadway debut as Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* and subsequently starred as Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *My Fair Lady* and Sir Lancelot in *Camelot*, earning him a 2023 Tony Award nomination for the latter. His acclaimed theater work includes the dual role of Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the first national tour of *Hamilton*. He recently starred as Max von Mayerling in the Tony-winning revival of *Sunset Boulevard* on Broadway and is currently captivating audiences as Dr. William Kirkland in HBO's *The Gilded Age* Season 3. His television credits include Jordan Chase in the CW's *Charmed*.

**John Michael Fiumara** (*Gonzalez/Ensemble*) is excited to throw a few pitches in our nation's capital. Film: *Kiss of The Spider Woman*, Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* as Big Deal.

Broadway: *Hamilton*, *Funny Girl*, *Newsies*, *Chicago*. Thank you to God, family, friends, teachers, and mentors.

**Rayanne Gonzales** (*Sister/Ensemble / u/s Meg Boyd*) is elated to return to Arena Stage, reprising the role of Sister, which she played in the 2005 production. Rayanne last appeared at Arena Stage in *Carousel* as well as its productions of *Oliver*, *Destiny of Desire*, *The Music Man*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Señor Discretion Himself*. She's also been seen in Signature Theatre's *In the Heights*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Bridges of Madison County*, and *Daphne's Dive*; Ford's Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*; and Olney Theatre Center's *Matilda* and *In the Heights*, earning a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical. Rayanne's Broadway credits include *Phantom of the Opera* and *Hands on a Hardbody*. She appeared in the world-premiere productions of *Anastasia* at Hartford Stage and *Mystic Pizza* at Ogunquit Playhouse and La Mirada. Her film and TV credits comprise *In the Heights* and *The Sound of Music Live*. Thank you, fam and Alex/CGF Talent! Instagram: [@rayannegonzales](https://www.instagram.com/rayannegonzales)

**Danielle Marie Gonzalez** (*Ensemble / u/s Lola*)'s credits include Off-Broadway: *Rock of Ages* (New World Stages), *Clueless: The Musical* (The New Group). National Tours: *Beetlejuice* (Miss Argentina), *Saturday Night Fever* (Stephanie), *Flashdance*, *Rock of Ages*. Favorite performances: Anita in *West Side Story* (5th Avenue), Brooke in *Legally Blonde*, Radio City Music Hall, Beacon Theatre. On screen, Danielle has guest-starred as Simone Rocha on *Law & Order: SVU*, danced on *SNL*, and Katy Keane. She choreographed and starred as Ashley Benson's body double in Clark Duke's upcoming film *Stranglehold*. She wants to express her gratitude to Spencer and Merri Sugarman at TRC Company, Marc Tumminelli & Sergio. Instagram: [@daniemariegonzalez](https://www.instagram.com/daniemariegonzalez)

**Michael Harmon** (*Smokey/Ensemble*) is excited to be making his Arena Stage debut! Broadway: *MJ the Musical*. Tour: *Hairspray*. Regional: *Mamma Mia!*, *A Christmas Carol*. Michael would like to thank his mother, Celeste, for her support. With God, all things are possible. [@michaelharmon](https://www.instagram.com/michaelharmon)

**Nehal Joshi** (*Van Buren / u/s Applegate*) is elated to mark his 8th show here. He has appeared as Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!*, Amir in *Disgraced*, *Catch Me If You Can* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Mother Courage* with Kathleen Turner, *Unknown Soldier*, *The Music Man*, and *Señor Discretion Himself*. DC credits include *Babbitt* at Shakespeare Theatre, *Woolly Mammoth*, Olney Theatre Center, Kennedy Center, and Theater J. Broadway: *The Cottage*, *All My Sons*, *The Phantom of the Opera* (closing cast), *Flying Over Sunset*, *School of Rock*, *Gettin' the Band Back Together*, *Les Misérables* (1st revival), *The Threepenny Opera*. Off-Broadway: *Cyrano*, *Working* (2008 revision), *Grand Hotel* (Encores!). Regional: Dallas Theater Center, The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Goodman, Huntington. Video Games: *World of Warcraft: Cataclysm*. Television/Film: *The Wire*, *Search Party* (HBO), *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC), *Blackout*, *Under One Roof*. Honors: Special Drama Desk Award. He would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of Beth Newburger Schwartz. Instagram: [@nehajoshi](https://www.instagram.com/nehajoshi)

**Ryo Kamibayashi** (*Ito/Ensemble*) Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. Broadway: *The Outsiders*, *Pirates! The Penzance Musical*. Readings: *Memoirs of Amorous Gentlemen*, *The Last Man*. Ryo recently graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a minor in Music Composition from the University of Michigan. He would like to thank his friends and family!

**Bryonha Marie** (*Meg Boyd*) was last seen at Arena as Susan in *Dave*, which earned her first Helen Hayes nomination. Her second came with her depiction of Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* at Signature Theatre. She has also appeared in The Kennedy Center production of *Ragtime* and the touring production of *Falsettos*. Her Broadway/Off-Broadway credits include the recent revival of *Our Town*, *Prince of Broadway*, *Book of Mormon*, *After Midnight*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, and *Ragtime*. Other NY credits include Lincoln Center Live's *Show Boat* and *Sweeney Todd* (Emmy Award), and NYCC's *Promenade*. Favorite recent regional credits include *Noises Off* (Old Globe); *Life After* (Goodman, Jeff Award nomination); and *Sister Act* and *Sound of Music* (Muny). On television, she can be seen in *How to Die Alone*, *Long Bright River*, *Madame Secretary*, *The SpongeBob Musical: Live on Stage!*, and the 66th and 68th Tony Awards. Visit [bryonhamarie.com](http://bryonhamarie.com) for more info or follow [@bryonhamarie](https://www.instagram.com/bryonhamarie) on Instagram.

**Georgia Monroe** she/her (*Ensemble*) Arena debut! Broadway: *Sunset Boulevard*. National Tour: *Escape to Margaritaville*. Regional: *Cabaret* (Goodspeed); *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid* (The Muny); *Rock of Ages* (Pittsburgh CLO). Pace University: BFA Commercial Dance. Much love to my family, Ryan Sanders (Suite Talent), and Hank! Instagram: [@georgiaemmonroe](https://www.instagram.com/georgiaemmonroe)

**Keenan McCarter** (*Welch / u/s Joe Boyd, Van Buren*) is a vibrant baritone from Birmingham, Alabama, known for his powerful voice and commanding stage presence. In DC, he's appeared at Ford's Theatre in *Shout Sister Shout!* and *1776*, and at Signature Theatre in *The Color Purple*, *Ragtime*, and *Hair*. He toured nationally and internationally for over a decade as a musical ambassador with The U.S. Army Field Band and The U.S. Army Chorus. Keenan has performed with the New York Pops, Cleveland Symphony, Southern Illinois Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Chicago's Opera in the Neighborhoods. A proud graduate of Alabama State and Southern Illinois University, he's also been recognized by NATS, Opera Idol of Chicago, and The Schuyler Foundation. Keenan is passionate about storytelling through music, both onstage and in service.

**Rob McClure** (*Applegate*)'s most recent appearance in DC was in *Spamalot* at The Kennedy Center. His Broadway credits include *Mrs. Doubtfire* (Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle nominations), *Chaplin* (Tony, Drama League, Astaire, and Outer Critics Circle nominations; Theatre World and Clive Barnes awards), *Beetlejuice*, *Something Rotten!*, *Noises Off*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, and *Avenue Q*, as well as *Where's Charley?* and *Irma La Douce* at Encores!. He starred Off-Broadway in the currently running production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Regionally, he's performed at The Muny, Paper Mill, The Old Globe, Arden Theatre, Cleveland Play House, A.R.T., Walnut Street, Delaware Theatre Company, Flat Rock, McCarter Theatre, Ogunquit, and La Jolla Playhouse. His acclaimed solo concert, *Smile*, has been performed on stages all over the world. Film: *Recursion* (Best Actor at The Queen's World and Williamsburg film festivals.) TV: *Elsbeth*, PBS Great Performances' 50th Anniversary Concert, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Julia*, *Blue Bloods*, *Servant*, *Evil*, *Person of Interest*, *Elementary*, and *The Good Fight*.

**Kevin Munhall** (*Commissioner/Ensemble / u/s Ito, Peña, Welch*) is thrilled to be back onstage after a five-year hiatus running Habit Disruption, a company focused on helping executives, professionals, athletes, and performers with stress, anxiety, burnout, and performance. In this capacity, he has worked with Amazon, WeWork, Avocado Mattress, Fleet Feet, TouchCare Health, Igneo Infrastructure Partners, Two Circles, Sikich, Canyon Ranch, Brazen Athletics, University of Michigan, Vassar College, Howard University, University of the Arts, American



University, and more. As a performer, his credits include Broadway: *Tootsie*, *Anastasia*, *Allegiance*, *Anything Goes*; National Tour: *Dirty Dancing*; NYC: Encores!, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall; Regional: Boston Pops, Golden Gate Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Walnut Street, Ogunquit Playhouse, MTWichita, and more. TV: *Smash*, *One Life to Live*. Find him at [www.habitdisruption.com](http://www.habitdisruption.com) or on Instagram [@kevin\\_munhall](https://www.instagram.com/kevin_munhall).

**J Savage** (*Sohovik/Ensemble*) is a New York-based actor from South Florida. In DC, he was seen at The Kennedy Center in *Footloose*. Broadway credits include *Smash* (OBC), *Elf* (ORC), and *Bad Cinderella* (OBC) Off-Broadway, he could be seen in *Empire: The Musical*, *A Sign of the Times*, and the revival of *Seesaw*. He is also an avid outdoorsman and a vintage Barbie collector. A former van lifer, he spent the pandemic in Yellowstone teaching preschool to the rangers' children where he wrote his first one-man show, *Farewell to the West*. He then returned as the 2022 Artist-in-Residence where he wrote his second one-man show, *After the Adventure*, both featuring his original music. Major thanks to Arena, the whole *Damn Yankees* team, PSU, DGRW, his family, and his home Jared and Sky. [@jasavage5](https://www.instagram.com/jasavage5)

**Justin Showell** (*Rocky/Ensemble / u/s Joe Hardy*) is a proud DMV native! He is profoundly grateful to return to Arena Stage – where he once sat in the audience, as a young dreamer – now as a player onstage! In his youth, he played Scipio in the 2006 and 2010 productions of *Porgy and Bess* at The Kennedy Center. He recently made his Broadway debut in *Floyd Collins* at Lincoln Center Theater. Other credits include *Hamilton: An American Musical* (North American Tour), *Buena Vista Social Club* (Atlantic Theater Company), *A Sign of the Times* (New World Stages), and *Frozen* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre). Endless gratitude to his parents, mentors, friends/family, and agents – DGRW! Praise to the Divine Maker from Whom all blessings flow. University of Michigan BFA Musical Theatre '19. Instagram: [@justinbshow](https://www.instagram.com/justinbshow)

**Sarah Anne Sillers** (*Doris/Ensemble / u/s Gloria Thorpe*) is over the moon to be making her Arena debut! Select DC area credits include Olney Theatre Center's *Frozen*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Music Man* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical), *Singin' in the Rain*, *Elf the Musical*; Signature Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*, *She Loves Me*, *RENT*; Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences' *Through the Sunken Lands*, *The Dragon King's Daughter*, *The Day You Begin*; NextStop Theatre Company's *The 39 Steps*, *Ordinary Days*, *45 Plays for 45 Presidents*, *A Grand Night for Singing*; Monumental Theatre Company's *Songs for a New World*, *Urinetown*; and Avant Bard Theatre's *Visible Language* (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress). Education: Princeton University. [www.sarahannesillers.com](http://www.sarahannesillers.com) Instagram/TikTok: [@sarah.anne.sillers](https://www.instagram.com/sarah.anne.sillers)

**Jordyn Taylor** (*Ensemble / u/s Sister*) is thrilled to return to Arena Stage! Her credits include Arena's *Unknown Soldier* (Swing); Olney Theatre Center's *Senior Class* (Ty'Quasia, u/s Marva); Spooky Action Theater's *Professor Woland's Black Magic Rock Show* (Margarita); Theater Alliance's *Covenant* (Avery); Adventure Theater MTC's *She Persisted* (Harriet Tubman/Flo Jo) [Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Supporting Performer], *Junie B. Jones* (Lucille, Bobbi Jean, José); Monumental Theatre's *American Psycho* (Evelyn Williams) [Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble]; Signature Theatre's *Ragtime* (Sarah's Friend). TV/Film: PBS's *How Great Thou Art: A Sacred Celebration*; Direction/Music Direction: NextStop Theatre's Summer Theatre Adventures' *The Marvelous Wonderettes*; Howard University's *Heathers the Musical*. Howard University: BFA Musical Theatre (2023). Instagram: [@favvvgeminiiii](https://www.instagram.com/favvvgeminiiii) TikTok: [@jordyntaylorrr](https://www.tiktok.com/@jordyntaylorrr)

**Alysha Umphress** (*Gloria Thorpe*) returns to Arena Stage after making her debut here in *The Bedwetter* earlier this year! Previously seen in the DC area originating the role of Cee Cee Bloom in the world premiere of *Beaches* at Signature Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress). Broadway credits include *On the Town*, *Bring It On*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, and *American Idiot*. She was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for her work in the NYC revival of *Smokey Joe's Café*. Her television credits include Murphy on two seasons of Netflix's *Bonding*, *Royal Pains*, *Girls5eva*, *Chicago Med*, *Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Fosse/Verdon*, and *Nurse Jackie*. She performs with symphonies throughout the US and Europe and made her principal soloist debut at the world-famous La Scala opera house in Milan, Italy, in 2023. Instagram: [@alyshaumphress](https://www.instagram.com/alyshaumphress)

**Ana Villafañe** (*Lola*) recently starred in *N/A* at Lincoln Center opposite Holland Taylor, directed by Diane Paulus; and as Ava Gardner in *Sinatra: The Musical* in the UK, directed by Kathleen Marshall. Her Broadway debut was originating the role of Gloria Estefan in *On Your Feet!* (Theatre World Award, Drama League Award, Outer Critics Circle nomination), directed by Jerry Mitchell. Ana played Roxie Hart during the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Chicago* and Nina in The Kennedy Center's 2018 production of *In the Heights*. She earned her second Drama League Award in 2019 for MCC's *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* by Jen Silverman. TV: *New Amsterdam* (NBC/Netflix), *Younger* (Paramount+/Netflix), *Sunnyside* (NBC). Film: title role in *Castro's Daughter*. Named *New York Times*' "30 Under 30" and honored by the NHMC for trailblazing Latin representation in entertainment. [@anavillafaneofficial](https://www.instagram.com/anavillafaneofficial)

**Drake Leach** he/him/his (*Swing*)'s credits include Signature Theatre's *Into the Woods*, *We Shall Someday*, *She Loves Me*; Ford's Theatre's *The Trip to Bountiful*; Delaware Theatre Company's *Stompin' at the Savoy*; Arts Center of Coastal Carolina's *Something Rotten!*; North Shore Music Theatre's *Jersey Boys*, *The Sound of Music*; Theatre By The Sea's *Jersey Boys*; Imagination Stage's *Snow Queen*. Drake is so excited to be making his Arena Stage debut! Thank you Mom and Dad and Jim - and go Patriots! GMU '22. Facebook: [/drake.leach](https://www.facebook.com/drake.leach) Instagram: [@drake\\_leach](https://www.instagram.com/drake_leach)

**Dani Spieler** (*Swing*) Arena Stage debut! Dani has appeared on Broadway in *Chicago*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Cats*, and *Legally Blonde*. She has appeared in the National Tours of *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *Elf*, and *Flashdance*. Other NYC credits include the pre-Broadway workshops of *Nerds* and *First Date*, as well as *American Dance Machine for the 21st Century* and *Illuminati Lizards from Outer Space*. Regionally, Dani has performed at Paper Mill Playhouse, Marriott Theatre, Houston TOTS, and Goodspeed Opera House. TV/Film credits include *Doogie Kamealoha, M.D.*, *Magnum P.I.*, *Are You Joking?*, *That's What She Said*, and *The Battery's Down*. Proud graduate of the University of Michigan. Love & thanks to Cory, Mom & Dad, CESD, Sergio & the entire DY team! Proud new Mom of Ruby! [danisieler.com](https://www.danisieler.com) Instagram: [@danisieler](https://www.instagram.com/danisieler)

## **PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

### **DAMN YANKEES**

**Music and Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross**

**Book by George Abbott and Douglass Wallop**

**Based on the Novel *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant* by Douglass Wallop**

**New Adaptation by Will Power and Doug Wright**

**Additional Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens**

**Directed and Choreographed by Sergio Trujillo**

**In the Fichandler Stage | September 9 – November 9, 2025**

**ABOUT:** One of America's most beloved musicals is coming back, dusted off and spit-shined for a new generation. All the elements that made it famous are there: a diehard love of baseball, one man's fateful (and hilarious) pact with the Devil, and Broadway's sexiest femme fatale...but gently re-tooled for its first major revival in the 21st Century. Featuring iconic songs like "Whatever Lola Wants" and "Who's Got the Pain?," this production immerses audiences in a whirlwind of temptation, ambition, love, and sacrifice in this bold new adaptation by Lortel Award winner Will Power and Pulitzer and Tony Award winner Doug Wright, with additional lyrics by Tony Award winner Lynn Ahrens, and directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Sergio Trujillo.

### **CAST**

Peña/Ensemble: Giuseppe Bausilio\*  
Ensemble / Dance Captain: Raúl Contreras\*  
Ensemble: Deanna Cudjoe\*  
Joe Boyd: Quentin Earl Darrington\*  
Joe Hardy: Jordan Donica\*  
Gonzalez/Ensemble: John Michael Fiumara\*  
Sister/Ensemble / us/ Meg Boyd: Rayanne Gonzales\*  
Ensemble / u/s Lola: Danielle Marie Gonzalez\*  
Smokey/Ensemble: Michael Harmon\*  
Van Buren / u/s Applegate: Nehal Joshi\*  
Ito/Ensemble: Ryo Kamibayashi\*  
Meg Boyd: Bryonha Marie\*  
Ensemble: Georgia Monroe\*  
Welch / u/s Joe Boyd, Van Buren: Keenan McCarter\*  
Applegate: Rob McClure\*  
Commissioner/Ensemble / u/s Ito, Peña, Welch: Kevin Munhall\*  
Sohovik/Ensemble: J Savage\*  
Rocky/Ensemble / u/s Joe Hardy: Justin Showell\*  
Doris/Ensemble / u/s Gloria Thorpe: Sarah Anne Sillers\*  
Ensemble / u/s Sister: Jordyn Taylor\*  
Gloria Thorpe: Alysha Umphress\*  
Lola: Ana Villafañe\*  
Swing: Drake Leach\*  
Swing: Dani Spieler\*

### **CREATIVE**

Co-Composer/Lyricist: Richard Adler  
Co-Composer/Lyricist: Jerry Ross  
Co-Author: George Abbott  
Co-Author: Douglass Wallop  
Co-Adaptor: Will Power  
Co-Adaptor: Doug Wright  
Additional Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens  
Director/Choreographer: Sergio Trujillo



Set Designer: Robert Brill  
Costume Designer: Linda Cho  
Lighting Designer: Philip S. Rosenberg  
Sound Designer: Walter Trarbach  
Projections Designer: Peter Nigrini  
Wig and Hair Designer: Charles G. LaPointe  
Illusion Designer: Paul Kieve  
Score Supervisor: David Chase  
Music Supervisor/Arranger: Greg Anthony Rassen  
Orchestrator: Doug Besterman  
Music Director: Adam Rothenberg  
New York Casting: The TRC Company / Tara Rubin, CSA, Merri Sugarman, CSA  
DC Casting: Raiyon Hunter  
Stage Manager: Christi B. Spann\*  
Assistant Stage Manager: Stefania Giron Zuluaga\*  
Assistant Stage Manager: Sara Gehl\*

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

*Damn Yankees* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

This production is presented by special arrangement with **Haley Swindal** and **Julie Boardman**.

#### **PLAN YOUR VISIT**

**TICKETS:** Tickets start at \$49 (fees included). Ticket prices and availability are subject to change.

Tickets are available at [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org). Tickets may also be purchased through the Sales Office by phone at 202-488-3300, Tuesday through Sunday, 12-8 pm, or in person at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C., Tuesday through Sunday, 2 hours before the show begins on performance days.

Groups of 10 or more may purchase tickets by phone at 202-488-4380.

Arena Stage's many savings programs include "pay your age" tickets for those aged 35 and under; military, first responder, and educator discounts; student discounts; and "Southwest Nights" for those living and working in the District's Southwest neighborhood. To learn more, visit [arenastage.org/savings-programs](http://arenastage.org/savings-programs).

#### **PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30pm

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8pm

Saturday and Sunday at 2pm

Weekday matinees at 11am on October 29 and 12pm on September 23, September 24, October 1, October 15, October 23, and November 6

\*Times listed above are subject to change by performance. Please confirm on the website upon booking.

**Early Curtain:** Sunday, October 5 at 6pm

**Southwest Nights:** Evening performances from Tuesday, September 9 through Thursday, September 18

**Audio-Described Performance:** Saturday, October 4 at 2pm

**Mask-Required Performance:** Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30pm

**Closed Captioning:** GalaPro begins Saturday, September 20

**College Night:** Saturday, September 13 at 8pm

**Pride Night:** Wednesday, September 17 at 7:30pm

**HBCU/Divine Nine Night:** Tuesday, September 23 at 7:30pm

### **Post-Show Conversations**

Connect with the show beyond the performance at a post-show conversation on September 24 and October 23 following the 12pm matinees, and on October 7 following the 7:30pm performance.

**TRAVEL:** Limited parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage for \$22 to \$40, including drive-up valet parking for \$40. Call 202-488-3300 to purchase in advance. For more information on transportation and other parking options around the Mead Center, visit [arenastage.org/parking](https://arenastage.org/parking).

**DINING:** Enjoy sumptuous Beijing-style cuisine at Philippe Chow, the official Restaurant Partner of Arena Stage, located directly across Maine Avenue from the theater. Whether it's a casual dinner or a special occasion, enjoy the Arena Stage dining experience that will get you to the show on time! Ask for one of the Arena Stage menus starting at \$59 per person. Learn more about Philippe Chow at [philippechow.com](https://philippechow.com).

To explore Arena Stage's 75th Anniversary 2025/26 Season, visit [arenastage.org/75](https://arenastage.org/75).

*The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded in 1950 in Washington, D.C. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000.*

[arenastage.org](https://arenastage.org)

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