

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arena Stage

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR

CHEZ JOEY

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by LORENZ HART
New Book by RICHARD LAGRAVENESE
Inspired by John O'Hara's novel, based on the 'Pal Joey' stories published in *The New Yorker*
Choreography and Orchestrology by SAVION GLOVER
Co-Directed by TONY GOLDWYN and SAVION GLOVER
By Special Arrangement with Jeffrey Richards, Tony Goldwyn, Richard Lagravenese, and Kerry Barden

Washington, DC — Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is thrilled to announce the full cast and creative team for **Chez Joey**. Unifying artists whose work has defined genres, broken boundaries (and records), and claimed some of the industry's highest honors, this reimagining of the timeless musical inspired by **John O'Hara's** 'Pal Joey' stories for *The New Yorker*, is hotter than ever. With fresh arrangements of the legendary catalog of Great American Songbook duo **Richard Rodgers** and **Lorenz Hart**, a new book by Oscar-nominated screenwriter **Richard Lagravenese** (*The Fisher King*), choreography by Tony winner **Savion Glover** (*Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*), and co-direction by actor, director, and producer **Tony Goldwyn** (ABC's *Scandal*) and **Glover**, *Chez Joey* will set fire to Arena's **Kreeger Theater** from **January 30 – March 15, 2026**. Press Night will be held on Friday, February 13. For information and tickets, visit arenastage.org/joey.

"*Chez Joey* is an ensemble-driven production defined by shared musicality, collaboration, and collective impact," said Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**. "Every performer, every instrument, every element contributes to the energy and rhythm that drives this story and places audiences in the heart and sound of 1940s Chicago."

Setting the onstage tempo, the *Chez Joey* ensemble will include **Lamont Brown** (Broadway's *Funny Girl*), **Crystal J Freeman** (ArtCentric's *Dreamgirls*), **Charis Michelle Gullage** (*Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* National Tour), **Ndaya Dream Hoskins** (Broadway's *SMASH*), **Marcus John** (*Hamilton* North American Tour), **Josh Johnson** (ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*), **Addi Loving** (The Muny's *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*), **Kalen Robinson** (Signature Theatre's *Play On!*), **Brooke Taylor** (Broadway's *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*), and **Alana S. Thomas** (Imagination Stage's *The Hula-Hoopin' Queen*), as well as **Justin Michael Duval** (*Girl from the North Country* North American Tour), **Jordyn Taylor** (Arena's *Damn Yankees*), **Karen Vincent** (Olney Theatre Center's *Hello, Dolly!*), and **Jailyn Wilkerson** (Signature Theatre's *Play On!*). Driving the production's live sound, the onstage band—led by **Lafayette Harris Jr.** (Broadway's *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*) on keys—will feature **Nolan Nwachukwu** on bass, **Corey Rawls** on

drums, **Daniel Bereket** on trumpet, **Jalin Shiver** on saxophone, and **Alex De Lazzari** on clarinet.

They join a marquee lineup led by previously announced Tony Award winner **Myles Frost** (*MJ the Musical*) in the namesake role of Joey Evans, **Awa Sal Secka** (The Public Theater's *Goddess*) as Linda English, **Samantha Massell** (Broadway's *Fiddler on the Roof*) as Vera Simpson, **Angela Hall** (Broadway's *Black and Blue*) as Lucille Wallace, and Tony nominee **Kevin Cahoon** (*Shucked*) as Melvin Snyder.

The Rodgers and Hart score will receive new energy with music supervision by Grammy-nominated jazz pianist **Victor Gould**. The celebrated Broadway design team includes two-time Tony Award-winning set designer **Derek McLane** (*Moulin Rouge! The Musical*), five-time Tony-nominated costume designer **Emilio Sosa** (*Purlie Victorious*), lighting designer **Adam Honoré** (*Ragtime*), six-time Tony-nominated sound designer **Dan Moses Schreier** (*Floyds Collins*), and wigs, hair, and makeup designer **J. Jared Janas** (*Dead Outlaw*). Casting is by **The TRC Company / Tara Rubin, CSA & Peter Van Dam, CSA** and **Raiyon Hunter, CSA**. The stage manager is **Morgan Holbrook** and the assistant stage managers are **Kelly Merritt** and **Dayne Sundman**.

Set against the heat and hustle of the 1940s Chicago club scene, *Chez Joey* reexamines the question of sex and love and ambition and cost through a bold contemporary lens. Cue Joey Evans: an irresistible, slick-talking, velvet-voiced nightclub performer with dreams bigger than the bandstand. But in a city where the right connections mean everything, he finds himself caught between Linda, the bright-eyed chorus girl, and Vera, the wealthy baroness who can bankroll his big break—for a price. With no-nonsense club owner Lucille and vaudeville performer-turned-Chicago-social-insider Melvin watching his every move, Joey's got one choice to make: play it straight or risk it all for a shot at the spotlight.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Myles Frost (*Joey Evans*) is an American singer-songwriter, dancer, actor, and music producer. In 2022, he became the youngest solo actor in history to win the Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical for his performance as MJ in *MJ the Musical*. Myles was also nominated for a Grammy Award as principal vocalist on the *MJ The Musical* cast album. In 2024, Myles made his major motion picture debut in the role of Trayvon Martin in the biographical drama film *Origin*. Myles was recently nominated for a 2025 Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his revised role as MJ in *MJ the Musical* UK. Among his numerous accolades, Myles proudly received the 76th Annual Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut Performance, the 2022 Chita Rivera Award, and recognition as a nominee for the 2022 Drama League Award, 2022 Drama Desk Award, and 2022 Outer Critics Circle Award. He has been celebrated as part of *Variety*'s 2022 Power of Young Hollywood Impact Report, *Ebony*'s 2022 Power 100 List, *The Root*'s 2022 100 Most Influential Black Americans, the 2022 HBCU Top 30 Under 30, and the NAACP Theatre Spirit Award. At just 26, Myles Frost continues to defy expectations as a self-trained artist, actor, and musician.

Awa Sal Secka (*Linda English*) is elated to be back at Arena! Lastly, you may have seen her at Arena as Bea in *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*. Her Off-Broadway and touring credits include Zawadi in *Goddess* at The Public and Bea on the National Tour of *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, respectively. Local credits include Sarah in *Ragtime* at Signature, Joanne in *Rent* at the Kennedy Center, Mayme in *Intimate Apparel* at Theater J, The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* at Ford's, and Ama in *School Girls* and Dottie in *Caroline, or Change* at Round House Theatre. Awa is a proud co-writer of the 2023 MacArthur Award-winning play *The Joy that Carries You*. She is immeasurably grateful to God, the *Chez Joey* team/cast, for her fiancé, Ryan, all her friends, family, and supporters, her agents at Nicolosi & Co., and for her mother, Fatou. Instagram: [@_kujichagulia_](#)

Samantha Massell (*Vera Simpson*) is an actress, singer, writer, and filmmaker. She was last seen on Broadway as Hodel in the acclaimed revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* and made her Broadway debut at age 12 in Baz Luhrmann's production of Puccini's *La Bohème*. She has originated starring roles in many world-premiere musicals, including Rosalind Franklin in *Double Helix* (Bay Street), Rebecca in the revival of *Rags* (Goodspeed Opera, Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Actress), Karla in *The Flamingo Kid* (Hartford Stage), and Florika in Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (La Jolla Playhouse & Paper Mill Playhouse). On the small screen, Samantha is currently recurring on *Doc*, and has also recurred on *Dynasty*, *Mr. Mercedes*, and *Chicago Fire*, and guest-starred on *NCIS: New Orleans*, *The Good Fight*, and *Elementary*. BFA, University of Michigan, Phi Beta Kappa. For more: [@smassellsings](https://www.instagram.com/smassellsings), www.samanthamassell.com

Angela Hall (*Lucille Wallace*) illuminated the Broadway stage as a featured performer in the Tony Award-winning musical *Black and Blue*, performing alongside jazz and tap legends such as Ruth Brown, Jimmy Slyde, and Bunny Briggs. She has performed in national touring companies of *Big River* and *The Tap Dance Kid*. Additional show credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Dancin' in the Street*, and *For Colored Girls...* Angela's film and television credits include *Modern Love*, *Mo' Better Blues*, *Mad Love*, *Mr. Wonderful*, and Bob Altman's *The Player*. She holds a BFA in Musical Theater (Boston Conservatory), MS in Teaching (Fordham), and MS in Educational Administration (Fordham). She is thankful for her supportive family and to God for showers of bountiful blessings! Instagram: [i_am_angelahall](https://www.instagram.com/i_am_angelahall)

Kevin Cahoon (*Melvin Snyder*) received Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations for his role as Peanut in *Shucked* on Broadway. Other Broadway includes the original companies of *The Lion King*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, as well as *The Who's Tommy* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Off Broadway, Kevin was also part of the original companies of *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*, *The Wild Party*, and *The Shaggs*, as well as the revivals of *How I Learned to Drive* and *The Foreigner*, for which he received a Lortel nomination. On TV, Kevin created roles on *Monarch*, *GLOW*, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Nurse Jackie*, and others. Films by Robert Zemeckis, Woody Allen, Madonna, and regional theaters such as The Guthrie, Williamstown, The Old Globe, among others.

Lamont Brown (*Ensemble/Cat*) makes his Arena Stage debut in *Chez Joey*. His D.C. credits include playing Joey in *Guys and Dolls* at the Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC). New York credits include the Broadway workshop of Disney's *Hercules* and *Riverdance* (Radio City Music Hall). National Tour appearances include *Funny Girl* (1st National), *Mean Girls* (1st National), *White Christmas*, and *42nd Street* (Andy Lee). Regional highlights include *After Midnight*, *Chasing Rainbows* (World Premiere), and *42nd Street* (Goodspeed/Ordway/Drury Lane). He is also the co-creator and choreographer of *Syncopated Avenue*. Film/TV credits include *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* and *Your Attention Please* (Hulu). Lamont is a Creative Director and Capezio Athlete. Visit LBCreativesllc.com. Instagram: [@LamontBrownNYC](https://www.instagram.com/LamontBrownNYC)

Crystal J Freeman (*Ensemble/Cat, Understudy Lucille*), a Detroit native, brings an intense and heartfelt passion to every stage, celebrated for a versatility that shines from intimate theaters to grand concert halls. She discovered her deep love for music while studying under Dr. Nathan M. Carter at Morgan State University, an experience that included extensive international performance travel. Her powerful stage presence was quickly recognized in her debut as Woman #2 in *Putting It Together* with ArtsCentric. Crystal's critically acclaimed portrayal of Effie White in *Dreamgirls* was hailed for its "explosive vulnerability." Her regional work includes performing as Bulda in *Frozen* at the Olney Theatre Centre and as Granny and Cinderella's Mother in Signature Theatre's production of *Into the Woods*. She lives in Baltimore with her wonderful daughters, to whom she dedicates every performance.

Charis Michelle Gullage (*Ensemble/Ambrosial*) is thrilled to be making her debut at Arena Stage here in Washington DC, and to be a part of this revolutionary work that is *Chez Joey*! Her recent credits include: *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* as Disco Donna (2nd National Tour), *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* as Ikette 3/Tina US, *Sister Act* as Tina/Deloris Understudy (Asia Tour), *Hairspray* as Swing

(Australian Tour), and more! She is beyond grateful to her support back in New Orleans, Rene', Savion, and Tony. She dedicates this show to her grandmother, Alberta, who is the reason for her sound. ig: [@charis_michelle1](#)

Ndaya Dream Hoskins (*Ensemble/Ambrosial*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut in *Chez Joey*! Her recent credits include her Broadway debut in *SMASH* (OBC, Assistant Dance Captain, u/s Anita), and *Mrs. Doubtfire* The National Tour (Vacation Swing), while simultaneously completing her BFA in Musical Theatre at Pace University (c/o 2025). Ndaya sends endless love and gratitude to God, her family, and her amazing team at Clear Talent Group! Jeremiah 29:11. Instagram: [@ndaya.dream](#)

Marcus John (*Ensemble/Cat, Understudy Joey*) Blessed to finally make his regional debut at home in the DMV. *Hamilton*: Philip Tour (Swing), International Tour (Standby), Sydney (Standby/Assistant Director). Tours: *Rent* 20th Anniversary (Benny), *Mamma Mia* (ensemble). Film: *Dumb Money* (Netflix). TV: *Harlem* (Amazon). Choreography: Neptune XXI Medicine Music Experience. Proudly represented by the team at DGRW. Pray often, worry not!

Josh Johnson (*Ensemble/Cat*) is a Harlem-born tap and percussion artist whose journey began by dancing on New York City trains to help pay his way through Penn State University. His story of grit and generosity has been featured by *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, ABC World News, and The Ellen DeGeneres Show, where he's been a frequent guest. Josh has toured China as a lead tap artist with the Riverdance production and brought his rhythmic charisma to *Dancing with the Stars* and the sold-out NY Knicks season opener at Madison Square Garden. He has performed at iconic New York venues including the Cotton Club, the Blue Note, and Dizzy's Jazz Club. Blending musicality, humor, and heart, Josh inspires audiences of all ages.

Addi Loving (*Ensemble/Cat*) is a New York-based rising artist in the world of performing arts. Originally from North Carolina and St. Louis, she trained under Gene Medler and developed her foundation performing with The MUNY in St. Louis. A 2019 YoungArts winner and alum of Jacob's Pillow, Addi has continued to build her career across stage and screen. She is a company member of Dorrance Dance, with whom she has toured nationally, and is signed with MSA Agency. Addi can also be seen in a major feature film set to release next spring. She is grateful for every opportunity to share her craft and her love of rhythm and storytelling.

Kalen Robinson (*Ensemble/Ambrosial*) is a singer, dancer, and actress making her Arena Stage debut! Kalen credits her success to God and her endlessly supportive village of family and friends who believe in her! Some of her notable DMV theatre credits include: *Play On!* at Signature Theatre, *Paradise Blue* (Pumpkin) at Studio Theatre, *Finn* (Seasil) and *Look Both Ways* National Tour at The Kennedy Center, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* at Olney Theatre, *The Sensational Sea-Minkettes* (Raquel/Dionne) at Woolly Mammoth, *Metamorphosis* at Folger Theatre. Her regional theatre credits include: *Once on This Island* (Ti Moune) at the Lyric Theatre, *Cinderella* and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne S.) at Fulton Theatre. Education: BFA in Musical Theatre at Howard University. Instagram: [@k_nicole143](#) [kalenrobinson.com](#)

Brooke Taylor (*Ensemble/Ambrosial*) is honored to be in alignment with Arena Stage's production of *Chez Joey*. She can currently be seen on Broadway in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. Her additional credits include *Boop! The Musical* (CIBC) and Tyler Perry's *A Jazzman's Blues* on Netflix. A proud graduate of the University of Michigan, Brooke is also pursuing certification in the Dunham technique, continuing her dedication to the legacy of black dance. Brooke believes deeply in the power of storytelling. She views performance as an opportunity to honor her ancestors, build community, and to connect with spirit. She wants to thank Tony and Savion for providing a space to explore, to be curious, to fail, and to grow in every way. For Grandma. Instagram: [@Brooke.alexandria.taylor](#)

Alana S. Thomas (*Ensemble/Ambrosial*) she/her is overjoyed to be making her Arena Stage debut in *Chez Joey!* NEW YORK: Gallery Players: *Ragtime*; Theatre of War: *Antigone In Ferguson*. DC AREA: Dance Institute of Washington: *Spirit of Kwanzaa*; Constellation Theatre Company: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ronette); Gala Hispanic Theatre: *FAME The Musical (Mabel)*. REGIONAL: Signature Theatre: *Play On!* (CC); Imagination Stage: *The Hula Hoopin' Queen, Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed, P. Nokio*; Virginia Repertory Theatre: *In The Heights, The Color Purple, The Producers, White Christmas*; Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival: *Ragtime*; Firehouse Theatre Company: *Dessa Rose*; Riverside Center for the Performing Arts: *Legally Blonde The Musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. OTHER: *Summer of Love Concert Tour* (Ikette dancer). EDUCATION: Virginia Commonwealth University AWARDS: *Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical; Nomination* (Ronette). She'd like to thank God, Eric, and her family for their love and the support from the *Chez Joey* team! [@alanabesaiyan](#)

Justin Michael Duval (*Understudy Melvin*) is thrilled to make his Arena Stage debut. He recently appeared on the First National Tour of *Girl From the North Country*, which played the Kennedy Center, and has also toured with *Dreamgirls, Jekyll & Hyde*, and *Happy Days*. Regional credits include Papa Who in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe, Bill Sikes in *Oliver!* at Sharon Playhouse, Dennis Dupree in *Rock of Ages*, Bob Crewe in *Jersey Boys*, Gus in *Cats*, and Olaf in *Frozen*. On screen, Justin appeared in Garry Marshall's film *Valentine's Day*. He is the creator and performer of Righteous Harmony, a Righteous Brothers-inspired concert experience. Justin is a BFA graduate of California State University, Fullerton. Endless thanks to his wife Sam, Jill and Emma at Broad Talent Agency, and Savion, Tony, and Kevin. [@jmduvalsings](#)

Jordyn Taylor (*Understudy Linda*) is thrilled to return to Arena Stage! Her credits include Arena's *Damn Yankees* (Ensemble / u/s Sister) and *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: [@favvvgeminiii](#) TikTok: [@jordyntaylorrr](#)

Karen Vincent (*Understudy Vera*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut in *Chez Joey!* Much like the show itself, Karen's career is a combination of musical theatre and jazz. She is a classically trained soprano who has been singing jazz for nearly two decades (releasing a self-titled jazz EP in 2014), while simultaneously building a career playing unique comedic characters in the DC regional theater scene. She has been nominated for several Helen Hayes Awards including Best Lead In A Musical for *Kiss Me Kate* at Nextstop Theatre and *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"* at Adventure Theatre, and Best Supporting Performer In A Musical for *A Year with Frog and Toad* at Imagination Stage. She just closed *Hello, Dolly!* at Olney Theatre Center for which she was the Dolly alternate.

Jailyn Wilkerson (*Swing*) is ecstatic to be making her Arena Stage debut! DC AREA: Signature Theatre: *Play On!*; Olney Theatre Center: *Sleepova (Elle), Hello, Dolly!, Senior Class, Long Way Down*. REGIONAL: Theatre by the Sea: *42nd Street, Sound of Music*; Arizona Broadway Theatre: *Hello, Dolly!, Beauty & the Beast*. NATIONAL TOUR: American Girl Live!: In Concert. OTHER: Goodspeed New Works Festival: *Little Miss Perfect, Photosynthesis*. EDUCATION: National Cathedral School, The Hartt School—BFA in Musical Theatre #hartthasit. Immense amount of love to my Mom, Family and Friends Instagram: [@jailyn_wilkerson](#) www.jailynwilkerson.com

Lafayette Harris Jr. (*Keys*) is a New York-based jazz pianist, composer, arranger, conductor, and educator renowned for his refined phrasing, passionate flair, deep knowledge of jazz tradition, and nuanced command of soul, funk, and classic pop idioms. A trusted “go-to” musician on the scene,

Harris combines rhythmic vitality with harmonic sophistication, making him a first-call collaborator for bandleaders and artists alike. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Baltimore, Harris earned a Bachelor of Music from Oberlin Conservatory and a Master of Music from Rutgers University, where he studied under master pianist Kenny Barron. Early in his career, legendary drummer Max Roach described him as a “phenomenal new voice on the music scene today,” after a decade-long touring and creative partnership that began in the mid-1990s. Harris has performed and recorded extensively with the Duke Ellington Legacy Orchestra, Houston Person, Archie Shepp, Melba Moore, and four-time Grammy nominee Ernestine Anderson. He also served as associate conductor and pianist for the Tony Award-winning musical *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk* (Broadway, 1996). As a leader, his albums consistently garner acclaim. His 2020 release, *You Can't Lose with the Blues*, spent two weeks at No. 1 on the JazzWeek radio chart and was a top-ten played jazz album of the year. His newest album, *All in Good Time* (released fall 2025), continues this success, featuring Jeremy Pelt and Houston Person, and has quickly climbed into the top ten of the JazzWeek radio chart. Whether on stage, behind the piano, in the classroom, or in the studio, Lafayette Harris Jr. remains a versatile, musical force—equally adept at honoring jazz's legacy and charting new artistic territory.

Nolan Nwachukwu (*Bass*) is a New York City-based bassist, composer, bandleader, and producer. Originally from South Florida, Nolan studied jazz at the Dillard Center for the Arts. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music and has since become an in-demand collaborator, working with artists such as J'Nai Bridges, Michael Mwenso & The Shakes, Tyreek McDole, Jon Batiste, Miki Howard, Damien Sneed, Cisco Swank, Tina Fabrique, and FORAGER. Nolan has performed at venues and festivals including Carnegie Hall, Dizzy's Jazz Club, the MET Museum, NPR Tiny Desk (Home), Umbria Winter Jazz Festival, and the Monterey Jazz Festival amongst others. He continues to tour nationally and internationally with a range of creative projects.

Corey Rawls (*Drums*) is a versatile drummer, producer, and film composer with a Master's in Jazz Studies from Rutgers University. He is known for his ability to perform across a wide range of genres. His scoring work includes multiple award-winning films, and his theater credits feature productions such as *The Secret Life of Bees* (Atlantic Theater) and *Walk On Through* (MCC Theater). Corey proudly endorses Yamaha Drums, Bosphorus Cymbals, and Collision Drumsticks.

Daniel Bereket (*Trumpet*) is a trumpeter that has performed in several genres and formats. He started playing classical piano at the age of 5, and started playing classical trumpet at the age of 11. Daniel joined the El Camino Youth Symphony at the age of 13, performing throughout Poland and Germany with the orchestra. He then switched to jazz trumpet at the age of 15. Daniel was previously a member of the SF Jazz High School All-Stars and performed with the group in San Francisco, Monterey, and New York. Now, he plays with the Stanford Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble and other small ensembles around Stanford.

Jalin Shiver (*Saxophone*) is a saxophonist born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. He began playing the alto saxophone in the fifth grade at Maple Avenue School in Newark, where his passion for music first took shape. Jalin continued his musical development at Arts High School before pursuing further studies at New Jersey City University. Over the years, he has had the pleasure of performing with renowned artists such as Christian McBride, Savion Glover, Gloria Gaynor, and many others. Today, Jalin is an active performer throughout the Tri-State area, bringing an expressive sound to every stage he plays.

Alex De Lazzari (*Clarinet*) is emerging as one of New York's strongest young voices on the tenor saxophone today. Originally born in Italy, he and his family moved to Northern Virginia in 2008, where he first picked up the clarinet and later the saxophone. After graduating from William Paterson University in 2021 where he studied with Vincent Herring, Harold Mabern, Rich Perry, and Mike LeDonne, Alex began to gain his footing in the New York Jazz scene. He has played with the likes of Winard Harper, Savion Glover, the Mingus Big Band, and James Zollar, and has performed at the Kennedy

Center, the Blue Note, Smalls Jazz Club, and NJPAC. Alex looks forward to making his Arena Stage debut with *Chez Joey*.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

CHEZ JOEY

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Lorenz Hart

New Book by Richard Lagravenese

Inspired by John O'Hara's novel, based on the 'Pal Joey' stories published in The New Yorker

Choreography and Orchestrology by Savion Glover

Co-Directed by Tony Goldwyn and Savion Glover

In the Kreeger Theater | January 30 – March 15, 2026

ABOUT: The year is 1940-something, and Chicago's night scene is sizzling. Enter Joey Evans. A slick-talking, velvet-voiced songster with dreams bigger than the bandstand. But in a city where the right connections mean everything, he is caught between a bright-eyed chorus girl and a wealthy widow who can bankroll his big break—for a price. As the lights dim and the music swells, Joey's got a choice to make: play it straight or risk it all for the spotlight. This classic Rodgers and Hart score, including "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered," "What Is a Man?," and "I Could Write a Book," now includes "This Can't Be Love" and "The Lady Is a Tramp," among others. Co-directed by actor, director, and producer Tony Goldwyn and Tony Award-winning choreographer Savion Glover, the stakes are high, the music is hot, and the game of romance and ambition never sounded so good.

CAST

Joey Evans: Myles Frost*

Linda English: Awa Sal Secka*

Vera Simpson: Samantha Massell*

Lucille Wallace: Angela Hall*

Melvin Snyder: Kevin Cahoon*

Ensemble/Cat: Lamont Brown*

Ensemble/Cat, Understudy Lucille: Crystal J Freeman*

Ensemble/Ambrosial: Charis Michelle Gullage*

Ensemble/Ambrosial: Ndaya Dream Hoskins*

Ensemble/Cat, Understudy Joey: Marcus John*

Ensemble/Cat: Josh Johnson*

Ensemble/Cat: Addi Loving*

Ensemble/Ambrosial: Kalen Robinson*

Ensemble/Ambrosial: Brooke A. Taylor*

Ensemble/Ambrosial: Alana S. Thomas*

Understudy Melvin: Justin Michael Duval*

Understudy Linda: Jordyn Taylor*

Understudy Vera: Karen Vincent*

Swing: Jailyn Wilkerson*

Keys: Lafayette Harris Jr.*

Bass: Nolan Nwachukwu*

Drums: Corey Rawls*

Trumpet: Daniel Bereket*

Saxophone: Jalin Shiver*

Clarinet: Alex De Lazzari*

CREATIVE

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Lorenz Hart
New Book by Richard Lagravenous
Choreographer, Orchestrologist, and Co-Director: Savion Glover
Co-Director: Tony Goldwyn
Music Supervisor: Victor Gould
Set Designer: Derek McLane
Costume Designer: Emilio Sosa
Lighting Designer: Adam Honoré
Sound Designer: Dan Moses Schreier
Wigs, Hair, and Makeup Designer: J. Jared Janas
Casting: The TRC Company/Tara Rubin, CSA & Peter Van Dam, CSA and Raiyon Hunter, CSA
Stage Manager: Morgan Holbrook*
Assistant Stage Manager: Kelly Merritt*
Assistant Stage Manager: Dayne Sundman*

*Members of Actors' Equity Association

Support for *Chez Joey* is provided by **David and Patricia Fisher; Daniel Korengold, Martha Dippell, and Ourisman Automotive of Virginia; Bonnie Feld;** and **Catherine and Chris Guttman-McCabe.** Special thanks to **Boston Consulting Group.**

Arena Stage offers this production in memory of long-time usher and patron, **Anne Buzalski**, in grateful recognition of her very generous bequest.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

TICKETS: Tickets start at \$83. Ticket prices and availability are subject to change.

Tickets are available at 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, Washington, DC, Tuesday through Sunday, 2 hours before the show begins on performance days.

Groups of 10 or more may book tickets at arenastage.org/groups or via email at groups@arenastage.org.

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.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30PM

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8PM

Saturday and Sunday at 2PM

Weekday matinees at 12PM on February 25, March 4, and March 12

Times are subject to change. Please confirm on the website upon booking.

Southwest Night Performances: Friday, January 30 through Thursday, February 12

Early Curtain Performance: Sunday, March 1, at 6PM

Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, February 28, at 2PM

ASL-Interpreted Performance: Saturday, February 28, at 8PM

Closed Captioning: GalaPro begins Saturday, February 14

College Night: Saturday, January 31, at 8PM

Pride Night: Wednesday, February 4, at 7:30PM

Young Professionals Night: Saturday, February 7, at 8PM

HBCU Night: Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30PM

Post-Show Conversations

Connect with the show beyond the performance at a post-show conversation on February 24 following the 7:30PM performance, and on March 4 and March 12 following the 12PM matinees.

Chez Joey Live

In partnership with DC Jazz Festival, Arena Stage encourages Wednesday evening audiences to arrive early to immerse themselves in a lively pre-show jazz performance. Starting at 6:30PM in Arena's Bank of America Lower Lobby, and featuring standout local DMV jazz combos and musicians, the series brings straight-ahead, classic jazz to life as a spirited musical welcome—setting the rhythm, mood, and energy for the night ahead. Artist lineup coming soon.

Dreamer's Workshop: Saturday, January 24, 12–2:30PM

Envision your best New Year at Arena Stage with a family-friendly Dream Box experience! Create your own three-dimensional vision board and dream big—just like Joey. Come manifest a bright and bold 2026!

Cupid's Karaoke Night: Friday, February 6, 6–9PM

Join Arena at Sid Gold's Request Room for a night of duets and love songs! Grab your partner or your friends and sing your heart out. Celebrate love, music, and *Chez Joey*.

TRAVEL: Limited parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage for \$22 to \$40; call 202-488-3300 to purchase in advance. Drive-up valet parking is also available for \$40, cash only. For more information on transportation and other parking options around the Mead Center, visit arenastage.org/parking.

For complete Arena Stage 2025/26 Season details, visit 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, DC. 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

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