VANGUARD THEATER COMPANY proudly presents...

BROADWAY BUDDY MENTORSHIP CABARET

Broadway stars perform with emerging talent for one amazing night! Streamed ONLY on BROADWAY HD

With performers from...

- HAMILTON
- HADESTOWN
- FROZEN
- ain’t too proud
- WAITRESS
- Beautiful

...and MORE!

A SPECIAL ONE NIGHT ONLY EVENT!
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020 - 8PM EST

A benefit for The Actors Fund, with special guests Lin-Manuel Miranda, Betty Buckley, Yvonne Gonzalez-Nacer, Gabrielle Ruiz, Loren Lott, Michael James Leslie, and more!

vanguardtheatercompany.org with support from TeeRico by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Artistic Director of Broadway Buddy: Janeece Freeman Clark
Managing Director of Broadway Buddy: Jessica Sporn
Music Supervisors: Terri Gorgone, Pieter Orlandini
Film Editing: Patrick Dorow
Sound Editing: Patrick Dorow, Pieter Orlandini
Intro & Thank You Video Editing: Kawanzaa King
Intro & Thank You Music: Bensound
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Broadway Buddy Teaser Video: Kawanzaa King
Broadway Buddy Liaisons: Janeece Freeman Clark, Jessica Sporn, Ilena Silverman, Meryl Budnick, Patty Gonzalez
Intern: Katie Shults

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Loren Lott, Yvette Gonzalez-Nacer, Seth Rudetsky, Gabrielle Ruiz, Michael James Leslie, Betty Buckley for supporting Vanguard Theater Company and lending their voices to this benefit;
The Team at BroadwayHD for streaming this concert;
The Actors Fund, for all you do for everyone in entertainment;

Vanguard Theater Company Staff
Janeece Freeman Clark, Founding Artistic Director; Jessica Sporn, Managing Director; Melissa McHugh (Education Coordinator); Beth Vogel (Development); Rabiah Duncan (Corporate Sponsorship); Dominic Grijalva (Graphic Design); Tira Allen (Human Resources); Meryl Budnick (Registrar)

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A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The idea for the Broadway Buddy program grew out of a frustrating experience my husband, Dwayne Clark, had when he was a young actor some 25 years ago. When he was just starting, he had no clue how to navigate the audition process or the business itself. Though he had always loved to sing and perform, he wasn’t fortunate enough to have access to the same level of training as many of his competitors. So one day after being cut for the third time from the dance call of a popular Broadway musical that was casting its national tour, he got bold. There weren’t many African-American actors on Broadway who Dwayne could look to, but there was one who was playing the role that Dwayne had unsuccessfully auditioned for. Dwayne decided to stand outside the Broadway stage door one afternoon and wait for him. When he emerged, Dwayne bravely approached the actor and asked whether he’d be willing to help him learn the choreography for the show. To Dwayne’s surprise, the artist took him to a nearby rehearsal studio and taught him the full audition combination. Fast forward one month, and Dwayne booked that show – his first national tour! Since then, he has appeared in more than a dozen Broadway shows. The actor continued mentoring Dwayne, helping him make his way in the industry as a young African American man. Dwayne attributes a big part of his early success to this mentor who took a few moments to pay it forward.

Broadway Buddy was created for all the young actors out there whose lives can be changed by a mentor. Over the last 5 years, more than 125 Broadway actors have graciously donated their time to encourage, advise – and perform with – these aspiring young artists. Some of our mentors have worked on Broadway for more 20 years; others are newer to the world of Broadway. Each has a wealth of knowledge to impart. Our dearest hope is that the bonds they have created continue on beyond this evening’s cabaret – which is the true goal of the program. We are always thrilled to hear that so many of the relationships continue year after year.

The COVID-19 crisis has affected the Broadway Buddy program, like it’s affected all else. There have been no in-person meetings between mentors and mentees, no rehearsals at Ripley-Grier Studios, and no hanging out backstage at Broadway shows. Nevertheless, our mentors and mentees persisted – meeting, bonding and rehearsing virtually and recording their duets in their respective locations. In the wake of the killing of George Floyd and the realization that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on people of color, it has been all the more important for our young artists to have their mentors to turn to, lean on, and talk to about these important issues.

We’re thrilled to be presenting this concert tonight as a benefit for the Actors Fund’s COVID-19 relief efforts. And we’re so thankful to BroadwayHD for recognizing the importance of artistic mentorship and airing the benefit. In addition to the
A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR (continued)

fabulous mentors you will see this evening from shows including Hamilton, Hadestown, Frozen, Tina, Ain’t Too Proud alongside their talented protégés – we also have a host of luminaries such as Lin-Manuel Miranda, Betty Buckley, Seth Rudetsky, Loren Lott, Yvette Gonzalez-Nacer, and Michael James Leslie who have lent their voices to tonight’s cause. We are so grateful for the support we continue to receive from the Broadway community who truly believe in the power of mentorship and the importance of using their voices to make a difference in this world. They are incredible role models for our mentees, who we consistently encourage to use their artistry to bring about change. We thank them, as well as all of you who are joining us this evening, for being a part of Vanguard’s mission: D.R.E.A.M. – Diversity, Reciprocity, Education, Activism, and Mentorship.

Enjoy!

Janeece Freeman Clark
Founding Artistic Director,
Vanguard Theater Company

Vanguard Theater Company (VTC) was founded in 2015 by veteran performers and educators Janeece Freeman Clark and Daryl Stewart to address the lack of diversity in traditional theater casting and training. VTC is changing the narrative through theater dedicated to DREAM: Diversity, Reciprocity, Education, Activism, and Mentorship. VTC casts and presents theater to people of all races, genders, sexual orientations and nationalities in the Northern New Jersey and Try-State area.

VTC’s 2020-2021 Season

songs for a new world
With New Voices Pre-Show Concert

Disney Tim Burton’s THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN CONCERT

RAISIN

next to normal

Educational Performance Programs:

12TH NIGHT: a new reveryland

Pete (Her) Pan
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WITH

TERRI GORGONE–PIANO    PIETER ORLANDINI–PIANO
ALEX RATNER–PIANO
MUSICAL SELECTIONS

JANEECE FREEMAN CLARK, INTRODUCTION

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

“For the First Time in Forever” - Frozen
Music: Kristen Anderson-Lopez; Lyrics: Robert Lopez
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner
DeLaney Westfall, Mentor • Bailey Edelman, Mentee

“Worlds Apart” - Big River
Music & Lyrics by Roger Miller
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner
Antoine L. Smith, Mentor • Quincy Hampton, Mentee

“Journey to the Past” - Anastasia
Music: Stephen Flaherty; Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Pieter Orlandini
Marni Raab, Mentor • Kelsie Daniels, Mentor

“I Say No” - Heathers
Music & Lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe & Kevin Murphy
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Pieter Orlandini
Gabriella Sorrentino, Mentor • Veronica Gonzalez, Mentee

LOREN LOTT

“Breeze Off the River” - The Full Monty
Music & Lyrics: David Yazbek
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Terri Gorgone
Matt DeAngelis, Mentor • Bobby Axelrod, Mentee

“He’s The Wizard” - The Wiz
Music & Lyrics: Charlie Smalls
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner
Jewelle Blackman, Mentor • Raquel Anticette, Mentee

“Happy Days” - Chasing Rainbows
“Get Happy” - The Nine-Fifteen Review
Music: Jack Yellen; Lyrics: Milton Ager (Happy Days)
Music: Harold Arlen; Lyrics: Ted Koehler (Get Happy)
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Pieter Orlandini
Elena Ricardo, Mentor • Meg Whyte, Mentee

“Let Me Be Your Star” - Smash
Music: Marc Shaiman; Lyrics: Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Pieter Orlandini
Salisha Thomas, Mentor • Gabrielle LeCours, Mentee

YVETTE GONZALEZ-NACER

“Butter Out of Cream” - Catch Me If You Can
Music: Marc Shaiman; Lyrics: Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman
Music Direction and Arrangement by: Terri Gorgone
Robert Creighton, Mentor • Sam Laraia, Mentee
“For Good” - *Wicked*
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Terri Gorgone*
Housso Semon, Mentor • Nimat Saleem, Mentee

“A Hard Place”/”Waving Through a Window” (mash-up) - *Dear Evan Hansen*
Music & Lyrics: H.E.R. ("Hard Place") /
Justin Paul and Benji Pasek (“Waving Through A Window”)
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner*
Chris Dwan, Mentor • David Harper, Mentee

“A Soft Place to Land” - *Waitress*
Music & Lyrics: Sara Bareilles
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner*
Kimberly Marable, Mentor • Isabella Saade, Mentee

**JOE NALIETH TRIBUTE TO NICK CORDERO**

“Flight”
Music & Lyrics by Craig Carnelia,
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Erica Dorfler*
Erica Dorfler, Mentor • Khari Jenkins, Mentee

“Nowadays” - *Chicago*
Music: John Kander; Lyrics: Fred Ebb
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner*
Nikka Graff Lanzarone, Mentor • McKenzie Waddell, Mentee

“The Color Purple” - *The Color Purple*
Music & Lyrics: Brenda Russell, Allee Willis & Stephen Bray
*Arranged and Music Directed by Terri Gorgone*
Leandra Ellis-Gaston, Mentor • Alana Smith, Mentee

“Music of the Night” - *The Phantom of the Opera*
“Til I Hear You Sing” - *Love Never Dies*
Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber; Lyrics: Charles Hart & Richard Stilgoe
("Music of the Night"), Glenn Slater ("Til I Hear You Sing")
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Alex Ratner*
Julian R. Decker, Mentor • Eason Rytter, Mentee

**SETH RUDETSKY**

“Two Nobodies in New York” - *[title of show]*
Music & Lyrics by Jeff Bowen
*Arranged and Music Directed by Alex Ratner*
Nick Blaemire, Mentor • Griffin Willner, Mentee

“I Can’t Lose You" - *Frozen*
Music & Lyrics by: Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
*Music Direction and Arrangement by: Pieter Orlandini*
Ciara Renée, Mentor • Veena Steaphen, Mentee
“What Would I Do?” - *Falsettos*
Music & Lyrics by William Finn
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Alex Ratner
Joshua Morgan, Mentor • Jason Muldowney, Mentee

“Gone Too Soon”
Music & Lyrics by Larry Grossman and Buz Kohan,
as performed and produced by Michael Jackson
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Janeeece Freeman Clark
Lawrence Dandridge, Mentor • Amari Key, Mentee

**Gabrielle Ruiz**

“Unsuspecting Hearts” - *Carrie*
Music: Michael Gore; Lyrics: Dean Pitchford
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Pieter Orlandini
Lauren Palmeri, Mentor • Mollyjane Boyle, Mentee

“Impossible/In My Own Little Corner” - *Cinderella*
Music: Richard Rogers; Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Alex Ratner
Lindsay Roberts, Mentor • Mikaela White, Mentee

“Colors of Paradise” - *The Spitfire Grill*
Music: James Valcq; Lyrics: Fred Alley
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Pieter Orlandini
Nicole Van Giesen, Mentor • Johanna Keyser, Mentee

“I Got it Bad (and That Ain’t Good)” - *Play On!*
Music: Duke Ellington; Lyrics: Paul Francis Webster
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Alex Ratner
E. Clayton Cornelious, Mentor • Aaron Bowes, Mentee

**Michael James Leslie**

“Make Them Hear You” - *Ragtime*
Music: Stephen Flaherty; Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Terri Gorgone
Jelani Remy, Mentor • Trevor Lavine, Mentee

“Boys” - *Glory Days*
Music & Lyrics: Nick Blaemire
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Terri Gorgone
Alex Dreier, Mentor • Matteo Celleri, Mentee

“Freedom” - *The Mad Ones*
Music: Kait Kerrigan; Lyrics: Brian Lowdermilk
*Music Direction and Arrangement by*: Pieter Orlandini
Catherine Ricafort, Mentor • Riley Hahn, Mentee
“You Love Who You Love” - *Bonnie and Clyde*
Music: Frank Wildhorn; Lyrics: Don Black
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Terri Gorgone
Christine Dwyer, Mentor • Caitlyn Huetz, Mentee

“Hold Me In Your Heart” - *Kinky Boots*
Music & Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Terri Gorgone
Tamar Greene, Mentor • Malcolm Green, Mentee

**BETTY BUCKLEY**

“In His Eyes” - *Jekyll & Hyde*
Music: Frank Wildhorn; Lyrics: Leslie Bricusse
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Pieter Orlandini
Rachel Zatcoff, Mentor • Alyssa Tanti, Mentee

“l2l” - *A Goofy Movie*
Music: Tom Snow; Lyrics: Jack Feldman
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Terri Gorgone
Avionce Hoyles, Mentor • Kenny Lee, Mentee

“Don’t Forget Me” - *Smash*
Music: Marc Shaiman; Lyrics: Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Alex Ratner
Beth Kirkpatrick, Mentor • Emma McElwee, Mentee

“On Broadway, Smokey Joe’s Café” - *Beautiful*
Music & Lyrics: Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, Mike Stoller & Jerry Leiber
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Terri Gorgone
Deonté Warren, Mentor • Derrick Law, Mentee

**JANEECE FREEMAN CLARK, THANK YOU**

Finale
“Where Is The Love” - *Black Eyed Peas*
Music & Lyrics by will.i.am, apl.de.ap, Taboo, Justin Timberlake, Printz Board, Michael Fratantuno, and George Pajon
“Love’s In Need of Love Today”
Music & Lyrics by Stevie Wonder
*Music Direction and Arrangement by:* Janeece Freeman Clark and Terri Gorgone
Performed by Broadway Buddy Alumni:
Aaron Bowes, Abraham Deitz-Green, Amber Ruffin, Brianna Johnson, Deanna Thomas, Diana Alvarez, Joe Nalieth, Lawrence Dandridge, Marcus Beckett, Maria Nalieth, Marisa Budnick, Nala King, Olivia Ridley, Samy Cordero, Silas Silverman-Stoloff, Sylvie Schuetz, Toni Gardner, Trevor Lavine, Tyler Matos, Veronica Gonzalez, Yasmeena Shariff
WHO’S WHO
(in alphabetical order by Mentor)

BROADWAY BUDDY

ALEX DREIER: Alex has performed professionally since he was six. Recent credits include: Roundabout’s Can Get it For You Wholesale and Peter in the Broadway musical Finding Neverland. Other Broadway credits: The Assembled Parties and Billy Elliot. Six off-Broadway credits include: Lies My Father Told Me, Appropriate, and Dinner with Friends. Other: NYC Ballet, Tony Awards, Broadway at The White House. TV: Royal Pains, Unforgettable, and Muhammad Ali’s Greatest Fight. Voiceovers/Vocals: Nickelodeon, Netflix’s Lilyhammer, and three albums. Alex has performed in all of his school’s shows, is a member of a competitive robotics team (only U.S. team to advance to semi-finals at World Championship 2017), and plays Ultimate Frisbee. He dances with NYC Tap Crew, mentors developmentally disabled teens who perform in shows, and has worked as an Assistant Choreographer with Gas Lamp Players. In 2017, Alex was a Broadway Buddy mentor for Ayla Schwartz, who booked Frozen during the program and originated the role of Young Elsa!

MATTEO CELLERI: Matteo, age 15, attends Seton Hall Prep High School. He has performed in several Vanguard productions to date: Children’s Letters to God, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Chip Tolentino), Runaways, Little Mermaid (Prince Eric), and For the Love of Charlie Brown (Linus). He is so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the Broadway Buddy program for a second time. Matteo would like to thank Miss Janeecce Freeman Clark for her encouragement and support and continuing to help him find his voice.

BROADWAY BUDDY

ANTOINE L. SMITH: Antoine is an Emmy Award Winner. Last seen on Broadway in the Tony Nominated Best Revival of a Musical Carousel (Timony /u.s. Billy Bigelow). Other Broadway credits include; The 2016 Grammy, and Tony Award Winning Best Revival of a Musical: The Color Purple (Grady /u.s.Harpo); Miss Saigon (Shultz /u.s. John); and Memphis (Wailin’ Joe). Broadway Tours include: Cinderella (Lord Pinkleton); and CATS. Other Notable Credits: Oklahoma (Curly); Memphis (Delray); Les Miserables (Javert); Rent (Tom Collins); Big River (Jim); Ragtime (Booker T. Washington). @antoinelsmith32

QUINCY HAMPTON: Quincy is delighted to be making his debut with Vanguard Theater Company. Current credits include: Something Rotten (Nick Bottom) upcoming with the Pixie Dust Players at UCPAC. Recent credits with the same theater company also include: Frozen Jr. (Kristoff), Les Misérables, Legally Blonde, and
AVIONCE HOYLES: Avionce is a Rock Hill, S.C. native and a graduate of AMDA N.Y. Credits include: Memphis the Musical (National tour), Bring It On HGS (European tour), Bat Out of Hell (Off-Broadway), Jesus Christ Superstar (Paramount Theatre), Sister Act (Ogunquit Playhouse/Northshore Music Theatre), and Rent (Edge Theatre). Ephesians 3:20. Insta: @avioncehoyles

KENNY LEE: Kenny is overjoyed to be making his debut with Vanguard Theater Company. He is currently a junior at Parsippany High School. Some of his favorite roles include: Davey Jacobs in Newsies (MayoPAC), Frank Abagnale Jr. in Catch Me If You Can (Parsippany High School), Doody in Grease (MayoPAC), and Mark Cohen in Rent (Passaic Valley Summer Theatre). Kenny was a member of the Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir last season, and has been a member of the MayoPAC Performing Arts Company for two seasons. Kenny would like to thank his parents for always supporting him!

BETH KIRKPATRICK: Beth is thrilled to be a NYC actor. Broadway: Les Misérables. Tours: Hello Dolly (Dolly u/s), Les Misérables: The 25th Anniversary Tour, The Phantom of the Opera, The Sound of Music (Mother Abbess), Asia. New York: Plain and Fancy (Rachel), York Theatre, Injury Time (Petra), Lark Play Development, Silas (Prissy Lammeter), Plain Language Productions workshop, Earthquake Weather (Brenda), New Dramatists, In Your Dreams starring Diana DeGarmo (Ars Nova), The Singapore Mikado (Theatre1010). Regional: Cincinnati Entertainment Award for Shawntel/Eve in Jerry Springer: the Opera (New Stage Collective), understudied and performed Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd (Geva Theatre Center), The Sound of Music (Maltz Jupiter), Yeston’s Phantom (Fulton Opera), Disney’s Beauty and the Beast (Montreal), Coming to America (Kalliope Stage). Proud Northwestern University graduate. Love and thanks to amazing family, besties, and The Mine!

www.beth-kirkpatrick.com
EMMA MCELWEE: Emma is thrilled to be joining the Broadway Buddy program and to be making her debut with Vanguard Theater Company! She performs frequently with the School of Visual and Performing Arts at MHS and Gas Lamp Players; some of her favorite credits include: *She Kills Monsters* (Tilly Evans), *Dance Nation* (Connie), *Ordinary People* (Jeannine Pratt), and *Legally Blonde* (Brooke Wyndham). She spent this past summer training at the National High School Institute Theatre Arts Program at Northwestern University (Cherubs), and looks forward to studying theatre next year in college. She would like to thank Beth Baur, Elena Shaddow, her friends, and her family for their endless support.

CATHERINE RICAFORT: Catherine is back for her second time as a Broadway Buddy! Broadway: *SpongeBob SquarePants* (Karen the Computer); *Honeymoon in Vegas* (Mahi); *Mamma Mia!; Cinderella; Holiday Inn; Miss Saigon; Disaster; Allegiance*. Catherine is also a software engineer currently working for Stitch Fix, and previously earned her B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from University of Southern California. She and her husband Scott co-founded Artists Who Code.

RILEY HAHN: Riley is so excited to perform with Catherine in her fourth Vanguard show! Other Vanguard productions include *For the Love of Charlie Brown* (Peppermint Patty) and *Runaways* (Jane Louise). She has also been a part of *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) and the Papermill Playhouse Summer Conservatory (2017-2020).

CHRIS DWAN: Chris is currently appearing in the Off-Broadway production of *Little Shop of Horrors* directed by Michael Mayer and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award this season for his role in *Enter Laughing* at The York Theatre. Other New York credits include: the Original Broadway Cast of *Finding Neverland*, *Scarflet Pimpernel* (Lincoln Center), *The Old Boy* (Keen Company). Select Regional credits: *How To Succeed*… (TUTS), *Big Fish* (Theatre Raleigh), *Last Days of Summer* (Kansas City Rep), *The Rivals* (BRT). TV/Film: "Royal Pains" (USA), “One Bad Choice” (MTV). Chris stars as Trey in the hit web series "The Queen's Project" and in the music video “No Stranger” for Brooklyn-based band Small Black. Chris is one half of the indie-pop band Stereo Dawn and a founding member of RANGE a cappella whose YouTube video *Hamilton in 7 minutes* has been viewed over 9 million times.
CHRISTINE DWYER: After graduating with a BFA from The Hartt School, Christine toured the U.S., Canada, and Japan playing Maureen in the national tour of Rent. She is best known for touring the country and flying into Broadway as Elphaba in Wicked. She has donned the green as Elphaba over 1,000 times including at the 2014 Tony Awards to celebrate the show’s 10 year anniversary and for President Barack Obama and Chancellor Angela Merkel at the 2016 Hannover Messe in Hannover, Germany representing the United States. Christine was recently seen touring the country as Sylvia Llewelyn Davies in Finding Neverland, the Musical. This past April, she was in the NBC Live Jesus Christ Superstar concert, starring Sara Bareilles and John Legend. She was most recently seen in the National Tour of Waitress as Jenna.

CAITLYN HUETZ: Caitlyn is very excited to be a part of Broadway Buddy this year. She has been very involved with theatre from a young age and has appeared in roles such as Ms. Honey (Matilda), Ariel (The Little Mermaid), and Mrs. Brill (Mary Poppins). As well as theatre, Caitlyn is an avid performer in chamber choir, orchestra, and is the music director of the Columbia High School a cappella group. Caitlyn is a senior and will be continuing her education at Mason Gross School of the Arts for Vocal Performance and Music Education in the fall. She would like to give a big thank you to her family and all her friends as well as to the Vanguard Theater Company. Much love to all.

DAVID HARPER: This is David’s seventh production with Vanguard Theater Company. His favorite Vanguard shows include Little Shop of Horrors (Seymour),...Spelling Bee (Leaf Coneybear), and Spring Awakening (Otto). He is a sophomore at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of the support throughout the process.

CIARA RENÉE: Ciara is currently starring as Elsa in Disney’s Frozen on Broadway. She has also starred in Facebook’s “Strangers,” Netflix’s “Master of None,” CBS’s “Big Bang Theory,” and CW’s “Legends of Tomorrow,” “Arrow,” and “Flash.” She played Mariana in MCC Theater’s production of The Wrong Man, originated The Witch in Big Fish, appeared as The Leading Player in Pippin on Broadway, and originated Esmeralda in The Hunchback of Notre Dame at the Papermill Playhouse. She also played Peggy/Maria in the final lab of Hamilton. Ciara co-directed (with Michael Dallatorre)
the short documentary “Beating The Odds – Children’s Defense Fund of California.” She is the writer, EP, and co-director of the short film “Reddy Records.”

VEENA STEAPHEN: Veena is very excited to make her debut with Vanguard Theater Company. She is 17 and a junior at West Orange High School where she has appeared in many school theatre productions including: In the Heights, The Outsiders, Mamma Mia, The Heidi Chronicles, Long Lost Play, and The Drowsy Chaperone. Veena has been singing, acting, and dancing for many years and has honed her skills with the help of teachers and directors at West Orange High School. She is active on the board for the Tri-M Honors Music Society, the Thespian Honors Society, and is president of her Glee Club. She has also trained through her advanced theater, choir, and dance classes. She is excited to start her theater experience outside of school through Vanguard.

BAILEY EDELMAN: Bailey is a sophomore at Millburn High School and spends her time either studying way too much or singing in musicals. Some of her most recent shows include Vanguard’s For The Love Of Charlie Brown as Lucy, Millburn High School’s Footloose as Vi, Papermill Allstars’ Frozen Jr. as Young Elsa, and many more! She absolutely loves singing, acting, and dancing but loves her Vanguard family more! Bailey is so grateful for this amazing experience and has loved every minute of it! She thanks her Buddy, Miss Janeece, and the rest of the creative team at Vanguard for such an amazing learning experience!

DEANTÉ L. WARREN: Deonté is currently on Broadway in Aladdin (Standby Genie/Babkak/Sultan). Broadway Debut! Nashville, TN. Tour: Dreamgirls and Sister Act. Regional: Shrek and Tarzan at Arizona Broadway Theatre, Hairspray at ACCC and many others. Bachelor of Music (Belmont University). All thanks to God, friends, family, the incredible Aladdin team, About Artists and all my teachers! This is Deonté’s fourth time participating in
Vanguard’s Broadway Buddy mentorship program! My love to all of you!
DeonteLWarren.com, @dlwarren01

DERRICK LAW: Derrick is a sophomore at Cicely L. Tyson School of Performing Arts where he majors in Musical Theater. He is excited about having the opportunity to be in Vanguard’s Broadway Buddy Program. He has recently been seen in "For The Love of Charlie Brown" (Schroeder), "Aladdin" (Aladdin), "Children of Eden" (Cain), "Jamaica the Musical," "Einstein Is A Dummy" and other productions.

BROADWAY BUDDY

E. CLAYTON CORNELIOUS: A Pittsburgh native, a graduate of PPU, and a veteran of the stage, E. Clayton’s career spans over 22-years and 8 shows on Broadway. He was, until Broadway closed down, in the hit musical, "Ain’t Too Proud: The Life & Times of the Temptations." In addition to acting, he has also invested in and produced numerous Broadway and Off-Broadway shows and is the recent honoree of the "Legacy Robe." Insta/Twitter: @EclayCorn

AARON BOWES: Aaron has appeared in several theatre productions. You may have seen him in "Hairspray," "Memphis," and "Magic Treehouse Showtime with Shakespeare" to name just a few. Aaron studied acting at The New School of Drama. A native of New Jersey, Aaron now lives in East Orange.

ELENA RICARDO: Broadway: "Mamma Mia!" (Sophie), "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" (u/s Carole, Cynthia). National Tours: "Beautiful," "Mamma Mia!" Favorite Regional credits: "Peter Pan" (Peter), "Spring Awakening" (Wendla), "Next to Normal" (Natalie), "Bring it On: The Musical!"

MEG WHYTE: Meg is absolutely thrilled to be a part of Vanguard’s Broadway Buddy program this year! She is 16 years old and a junior at Glen Rock High School. Meg has performed with Vanguard once before, as Thea in "Spring Awakening" for Summer Stock 2019. Meg has been performing since she was 7 years old and grew up at her local theatre, Porch Light Productions. There she was able to find her love for performing and making an impact on audiences. She has been working with her wonderful voice teacher Jon Provan for 6 years, and had the opportunity to sing at 54 Below’s "FutureFest" in 2019. Meg would like to thank her friends and family for being so supportive, and she would also like to thank Janeece for being kind hearted, welcoming, and reminding her why she loves performing so much.
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BROADWAY BUDDY BROADWAY BUDDY

ERICA DORFLER: Broadway: *A Christmas Carol; Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812; Book of Mormon; Memphis; Baby It’s You!; Scandalous. Off-Broadway: *Carmen Jones (Classic Stage), Avenue Q, Witness (Playwrights Realm), Forbidden Broadway, Silk Stockings (York Theatre). National Tours: *Rent, Mamma Mia! Regional/NYC: The Way of the World (Folger Theatre), Pamela’s First Musical (Two River Theater), THIS (Barrington Stage), Here’s Hoover (Abrons Arts), West Side Story (L.A. Philharmonic/Hollywood Bowl), Great Comet of 1812 (ART). Television: The Family. www.ericadorfler.com

KHARI JENKINS: Khari is delighted to be returning for her second Broadway Buddy Cabaret. She has been performing at Montclair High’s School of Visual and Performing Arts for the past four years as well as being the president of the program’s student board. She is a senior in high school and plans to spend the next four years studying Dramatic Arts.

GABRIELLA SORRENTINO: Gabriella is currently Dance Captain/Swing/Peggy Maria cover in Broadway’s Hamilton. She has been with the show for almost four years. Broadway: *On Your Feet. Tour: Hamilton, Chicago. Regional: A Chorus Line (Diana), In the Heights, West Side Story. BFA in Dance from Point Park University. Represented by Lucille Dicampli.

VERONICA GONZALEZ: Veronica is thrilled to return to Vanguard Theater Company, having previously been seen in Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey) and Spring Awakening (Anna). Other favorite roles outside of Vanguard include Fiona in Shrek, Anna in Frozen Jr. and Gertrude in Seussical Jr. She originated the role of a soloist in Children of Eden Jr. and Sister Mary Irene in Sister Act Jr. Veronica is a sophomore and currently attends Montclair Kimberly Academy. Veronica thanks Vanguard Theater Company for this amazing opportunity.

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HOUSSO SEMON: Housso’s credits include Sarabi in The Lion King, Lu-cille in Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, and Leading Player in Pippin, national tour. She is so happy to be back with Vanguard and to be working with her amazing mentee Nimat!

NIMAT SALEEM: Nimat started performing at the age of 6 and has loved it ever since. Her passion for theater has grown since she experienced the educational and theatrical wonders of Whitney Houston Academy during her middle school years. She has performed in Fame (Ms. Bell), Bugsy Malone (Lena Marelili), Once On This Island (Asaka). At the Cicely L. Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts, she has starred in Into the Woods (Cinderella), Noises Off (Mrs. Clackett), The Crucible (Elizabeth Proctor), Jamaica (Savannah), Working: A Musical (flight attendant), and Civil War Voices (Elizabeth Keckley). This year, Saleem will also be starring in Dreamgirls (Lorreill Robinson) and Children of Eden (Eve). Saleem’s experience auditioning for roles has pushed her to be the actress she has become. Saleem hopes to become a professional Broadway performer after, or even before, attending Columbia College in Chicago for musical theater.

JELANI REMY: Jelani, a New Jersey native, is currently starring as Eddie Kendricks in Broadway's Ain't Too Proud. Past credits include: Simba in the Broadway, National Tour, and Vegas companies of Disney’s The Lion King. Past shows include High School Musical, Parade, Pippin, Cabaret, and the Off-Broadway production of Smokey Joe’s Café. When not on the stage, Jelani truly enjoys teaching performing arts and helping others reach new heights with their craft. This is Jelani’s third year participating in Vanguard’s Broadway Buddy program! "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - Gandhi

TREVOR LAVINE: Trevor is a 16-year-old junior currently attending Cicely Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts. With his major in musical theatre Trevor has achieved many milestones with the support of his friends and his vocal teacher for three years, Terri Gorgone. This gifted teacher has boosted his confidence greatly by teaching him simple and effective ways of bettering his performance skill set. During his freshman year of high school, Trevor made his Off-Broadway debut in New York City playing Brett, the lead, in Children’s Letters to God. Following his passion, he participated in shows including: Runaways, A Little Princess, The Wiz, Sister Act, and many more. Tre-
vor hopes to continue down the path of performing and wants to pursue his dreams of being on Broadway.

BROADWAY BUDDY

JEWELLE BLACKMAN: Jewelle recently made her Broadway debut in the original company of Hadestown as a Fate and is thrilled to be a mentor and Broadway Buddy to Racquel. This actor, singer-songwriter, playwright, and violinist is a native of Toronto, Canada. Favorite credits include the Canadian companies of Hadestown; The Lion King; We Will Rock You; Caroline, or Change; Dreamgirls; and three seasons at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Television: Kim’s Convenience, Frankie Drake, Private Eyes, and Shadowhunters. Film: “Nine Lives” and “Crossword Mysteries.” She recently wrote her first musical, You Know My Name, Not My Story inspired by Nina Simone’s song “Four Women.” Follow her on social media: @jewelleblackman or @elleshelley

RACQUEL ANICETTE (Rocky): Racquel has appeared in several theatre productions. You may have seen her in Shrek, Mary Poppins, and Spring Awakening. Her comedic timing, emotive yet powerful vocals coupled with unexpected physicality have allowed her to commit to diverse characters while being cast against type. She’s been consistently recognized whether appearing in a cameo role or as a featured performer by local press and talent scouts. She was recently awarded the 2019 Vanessa Pollock Achievement Scholarship, which recognized her potential to develop into a true artistic force. Racquel actively pursues her craft at Vanguard Theater Company and the Performers Theater Workshop. A native of South Orange N.J., Racquel continues to live in her artistically stimulating hometown.

BROADWAY BUDDY


JASON MULDOWNEY: Jason is a second-year student at Union County College and is excited to be making his debut at Vanguard Theater Company! Past UCC credits: Twelfth Night (Malvolio), Murder at Midnight Hour (Henry), Broadway Cabaret (Soloist), Check Please! (Featured Actor), and Open Mic Night. He has also performed in other productions including a year touring with the Papermill...
JULIAN R. DECKER: Julian is so excited to be a part of this incredible program! Broadway: Sunset Boulevard, Les Miz (Joly). National Tours: Love Never Dies (Phantom). Off-Broadway: Mack and Mabel, City Center. Regional: Bye Bye Birdie (Hugo), Atlantis; Hunchback of Notre Dame (Quasimodo u/s), The Muny; Hunchback (Quasimodo), La Jolla/Paper Mill Playhouse/Tuacahn. Proud graduate of CCM. Love to DJ and Katie! @ujuerdecker

EASON RYTTER: Eason is delighted to be part of the Broadway Buddy program. He has appeared in several film, television, and theater productions. You may have seen him recently in the Golden Globe nominated television miniseries The Loudest Voice (Zac Ailes) alongside Russell Crowe and Sienna Miller. On stage, Eason has appeared with the Gingold Theatrical Group in JM Barrie’s Alice Sit by the Fire (Cosmo) and Shaw’s Buoyant Billons (Fiffy). You may recognize his voice from Nickelodeon’s Bubble Guppies and Paw Patrol. His gift for the spoken word has been recognized at the Magnum Opus International Speech and Drama Competition, at which he was awarded 1st Place. Eason’s singing has been supported by the Recanati Kaplan Foundation, which awarded him a full merit scholarship in vocal music. He attends LaGuardia High School. He is grateful to the Vanguard Theater Company, Rachel Maran and Elise Koseff (MKS&D), Innovative Artists, Melanie Scholz, Justin Reamy, the LaGuardia faculty, Disney Dreamers Academy, and his supportive family. SAG-AFTRA. www.easongrytter.com

KIMBERLY MARABLE: Kimberly is thrilled to participate in Broadway Buddy 2020. Kimberly is an original cast member of Hadestown on Broadway where she understudies Persephone and a Fate. Additional Broadway/Touring credits include: The Lion King, The Book of Mormon, Sister Act, Dreamgirls, Hairspray, and The Wedding Singer. You can also hear her as Lorelai in the Netflix Anime series, “Cannon Busters.”

ISABELLA SAADE: Isabella is honored to be included in the Broadway Buddy program. Past credits include: Spring Awakening (Ilse) and Runaways (Ensemble) with Vanguard Theater Company, as well as various productions with her high school’s drama program, including In The Heights (Camila), The Outsiders (Marcia), and Mamma Mia (Ali). She is also an active member of the Honors Chamber Choir and Thespian Honors Society, where she is vice
LAUREN PALMERI: National Tours: Elf, the musical (First Nat’L), Disney’s Beauty and the Beast (Belle cover). She has also appeared and performed as Belle at various press events around the U.S., including a Miami Heat game at the American Airlines Arena. Her regional credits include tick,tick...BOOM! (Susan) and Funny Girl (Fanny Brice) at Skyline Theatre Company. My Fair Lady (John W. Engeman Theatre). A Chorus Line (Diana Morales), and The Sound of Music (Leisl) at the Mac-Hadyn Theatre in N.Y. NJPAC performance credits include: Carousel (Julie Jordan), and Ragtime (Mother). She has also appeared as a lead vocalist for Princess Cruise Lines’ World Cruise 2017, at the Tropicana Showroom in Atlantic City and at The Fallsview Casino in Ontario. Lauren holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. www.laurenpalmerionline.com

MOLLYJANE BOYLE: Mollyjane has appeared in several community theater productions. You may have seen her in Sound of Music, Little Princess, Into the Woods and Runaways, to name just a few. Mollyjane Boyle goes to Glen Ridge High School. She lives in Glen Ridge, N.J. and has lived there her entire life. She takes pride in her debating and creative writing. Her favorite subjects in school are History and English, and she plans on majoring in History in college.

LAWRENCE DANDRIDGE: Lawrence is a Newark-based multi-faceted artist. A performer first, Lawrence has a long list of professional credits headlined his role as T.J. in the second-national U.S. tour of Sister Act: The Musical. He has produced and directed concerts, workshops, readings, and productions of his original musicals and arrangements throughout New Jersey, New York and California. As a teaching artist, Lawrence is a vocal coach for students and young professional artists, as well as one of the resident choreographers for Vanguard Theater Company. Lawrence is most excited to continue playwriting and composing original work while also performing full-time. Lawrence is the founder and artistic Director of Aurway Repertory Theatre Company geared towards original works that specifically highlight the voices and experiences of people of color.
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AMARI KEY: Amari began singing in the youth choir at St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark, New Jersey. His most memorable moment was winning the Apollo Amateur Night Child Star of Tomorrow, which led to one of his greatest accomplishments, performing with Stevie Wonder for his induction into the Apollo Hall of Fame. Amari found his love for musical theater at the NJPAC YASI program. He also performed in the VTC’s 2017 and 2018 Broadway Buddy Mentorship Program, and was in VTC’s production of Runaways. His desire is to further pursue his career in the arts.

ALANA SMITH: Alana has appeared in several theatre productions for Morristown Beard School and Vanguard Theater Company. You may have seen her in Honk Jr., Cabaret (Kit Kat Girl), For The Love of Charlie Brown (Freida) and Runaways, to name just a few. Alana was recognized with the Best All-Around Vocalist Award at Newark School of the Arts for her soaring vocal talent. Since the age of 6, she has studied with Ms. Inez McClendon at Newark School of the Arts for 8 years. After a nation-wide search, a native of Newark, N.J., Alana was chosen to participate in ACAPop Kids!, and is featured on their first album, on the a capella-version of “Fix You” by Coldplay. Insta: @alanazsings4u


LINDSAY ROBERTS: Broadway National Tours: Clara u/s in The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess, Felicia u/s in Memphis, Creole Love Call in After Midnight (NCL). Off-Broadway: Cindy Lou in Carmen Jones (CSC - Audelco Award nom., Best Featured Actress in a Musical), Brigadoon; New Yorkers; Gentlemen Prefer Blondes; Lost in the Stars; Lady, Be Good!; The Golden Apple (Encores!); Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Regional: Diana (LaJolla Playhouse), Sarah in Ragtime (Ogunquit Playhouse), Felicia in Memphis (MSW - Wilde Award nom., Best Lead Actress in a Musical), Queenie in Showboat (IRNE Award nom., Best Featured Actress in a Musical). Education: MS, Drexel University; BM, University of Maryland. Glory to God! www.lindsayroberts.com

MIKAYLA WHITE: Mikayla is so excited and grateful to be apart of Vanguard’s Broadway Buddy Program! Some past productions include: School of Rock: The Musical
MARNI RAAB: As a performer, Marni is best known for her extended run as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. She also toured in the role throughout North America and Asia. Other performance credits include: *Cats* (Hamburg), and leading roles in *Carousel, My Fair Lady, The Secret Garden,* and *Camelot.* Concerts: Dayton Philharmonic, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, and Christmas at the Cathedral (televised). Marni’s solo show was seen at Lyric Opera of the North and LA’s Show at Barre. Directing and dramaturgy credits: Bernstein’s *Trouble in Tahiti* and Hilliard and Boresi’s *The Filthy Habit* (Lyric Opera of the North); *Natural Shocks* (reading) by Lauren Gunderson (Midtown Direct Rep); *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling (Seton Hall); *Approximating Mother* by Kathleen Tolan (Seton Hall); Jason Loewith and Joshua Schmidt’s *Adding Machine: A Musical* (B-Side Productions). Producing credits include the world premiere of *Fear* by Matt Williams (Lucille Lortel Theatre, NYC), and readings of over a dozen new plays as Literary Manager for Midtown Direct Rep. Faculty at The Institute for American Musical Theatre in NYC (@IAMusicalTheatre). Bachelor’s from Oberlin Conservatory and M.A. in theater history and criticism from Brooklyn College. Love to Mike, Griffin, Noah, Avery. Insta: @marnisee

KELSIE DANIELS: Kelsie graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University in May, with a BA in Theater Arts (with a concentration in Musical Theater) and Elementary Education, and a minor in Dance. She has performed in numerous university and community theater productions. Credits include: *A Little Night Music* (Anne), *Company* (Amy), *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *Tarzan* (Jane) and *The Addams Family* (Wednesday). Along with performing, she also enjoys teaching dance and directing musicals at Harmony Dance Theater in Butler, N.J. She is very excited to perform with her Broadway Buddy and share this experience with her talented friends, Sam and Matteo. She would like to thank Vanguard Theater Company for this incredible opportunity, her Broadway Buddy for sharing kindness, talent and love of performing, and her family for their continuous love and support.
BROADWAY BUDDY

NICK BLAEMIRE: Nick was born in Washington, DC. He grew up in Bethesda, MD, where he began doing theater at a young age, and continued until he was accepted to the University of Michigan's music program, where he graduated in 2006. He subsequently moved to NYC and got his first Equity job touring the country in Altar Boyz, an Off-Broadway musical spoof of boy bands. He returned to NYC after being cast in the original Broadway cast of Cry-Baby, based on the John Waters film. Simultaneously, Nick wrote the music and lyrics for the musical Glory Days, which played on Broadway at the same time as Cry-Baby. His career has continued to blossom with film and television roles, and the opportunity to work with actors such as Lois Smith, Oliver Platt, Bruce Willis, Debra Monk, Larry Bryggman, and other stage and screen legends. Nick is the youngest person ever to have written a Broadway musical (Glory Days) while also performing in another Broadway musical (Cry-Baby) at the same time.

GRiffin Willner: Griffin is excited to return to Vanguard Theater Company after being in Spring Awakening. He recently played the Chairman in The Mystery of Edwin Drood and has starred in several other productions at Verona High School including: Curtains, Addams Family, and Comedy of Errors. He has also worked at Studio Playhouse in productions such as A Charlie Brown Christmas and The Frog Princess. He sings in the Verona Jazz Band, plays tenor drums in the Verona Marching Band, and last summer traveled through Europe playing the bassoon. Griffin would like to thank Vanguard Theater Company for this opportunity and his family for their love and support.
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NICOLE VAN GIESEN: Nicole is currently in the Tony winning smash Dear Evan Hansen on Broadway at the Music Box as a standby for the roles of Heidi and Cynthia. Before DEH, Nicole was seen onstage as a standby for adult Alison and Helen in the Tony winning Broadway production of Fun Home at Circle in the Square. Other Broadway credits: Cabaret (Frenchie), 1999 Revival at Studio 54, also understudied Toni Collette (Queenie) in The Wild Party. Off-Broadway: original understudy in The Last Five Years. National Tours: Cabaret (LuLu) and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Usherette). Regionally: Last Five Years (Barrymore Award for Best Musical, Barrymore Nomination for Best Actress) at Philadelphia Theatre Company, Cabaret (IRNE Nomination for Best Actress) at Foothills Theatre Company. TV: “Law and Order,” 2017 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Film: Studio vocals for “The Stepford Wives.” Her favorite job is being Mom to her two amazing kids.

JO KEYSER: Jo has appeared in shows in community theaters in northern N.J., the School for Visual and Performing Arts at Montclair High School, and Belvoir Terrace in Lenox, MA. Recent roles include She Kills Monsters (Evil Gabi), 9-to-5 (Violet), Plaza Suite (Karen), The Wolves (Player #2), and Blithe Spirit (Madame Arcati). As a member of the Passing Notes a cappella group, she contributed music to a short for “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.” Jo has particularly loved playing strong women (or opposite them) in Shakespeare’s As You Like It (Rosalind), Othello (Emilia) and Taming of the Shrew (Petruchio). Previous Vanguard productions include Hairspray (Shelley) and Runaways (Ensemble). Jo wants to thank her buddy, her voice teachers, and fellow performers, crews and directors from all her shows from whom she’s learned so much. The community is what makes theater so great. Also, thanks mom and dad!
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MCKENZIE WADDELL: McKenzie is a junior at Westfield High School and is thrilled to be a part of Vanguard’s Broadway Buddy program. She was most recently seen as Thea in VTC’s Spring Awakening and as Velma Kelly in Westfield High School’s Chicago. McKenzie has attended various training programs such as Syracuse Summer College for Acting and Musical Theatre as well as Pixie Dust Players. McKenzie enjoys baking and hanging out with her friends and family. McKenzie would like to thank her family, friends, and Vanguard for their immense support!

BROADWAY BUDDY

RACHEL ZATCOFF: Rachel was most recently seen as Tsaytl in the Off-Broadway production of Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish directed by Joel Grey. Broadway: The Phantom of the Opera (Christine Daaé). International: West Side Story (Maria). NYTF: The Golden Bride (Khanele). Regional: The Secret Garden (TUTS) and A Little Night Music (Anne). New York City Opera: Dear Erich (Lili) and Candide directed by Hal Prince. Education: BM, Rutgers University. MM, Temple University. @rachelzatcoff www.rachelzatcoff.com

ALYSSA TANTI: Alyssa is so excited to be guided by a Broadway Mentor. Some of her past credits include: The Sound of Music (Louisa), Band Geeks (Nicole), Les Misérables (Cosette), Peter Pan, Curtains, The Wizard of Oz (Glinda), Guys and Dolls Jr, Lion King Jr, and The Little Mermaid. This year she participated in All-State choir. Alyssa was chosen to be in the Paper Mill Summer Conservatory 2019 and will be participating this summer also.

ROBERT CREIGHTON: Robert originated the role of the Duke of Weselton in Disney’s Frozen. Other Broadway credits include: The Lion King (Timon), The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Durdles), Anything Goes (Purser/Moonface), Chicago (Amos), The Little Mermaid (Chef Louis), Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Jackie Mason’s Laughing Room Only. He was co-author and star of the hit Off-Broadway musical Cagney, which ran at the Westside Theatre, NYC for over 500 performances. For that role he won the Fred Astaire Award for Outstanding Male Dancer and was nominated for the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards as Best Lead Actor in a Musical. Last season he was a recurring guest star on the CBS series “The Good Fight.” Other guest-starring roles include “Elementary” (CBS), “Law & Order” (NBC), “The Family” (ABC), and “Life on Mars” (ABC). For his cabaret Ain’t We Got Fun! he won NYC’s prestigious Bistro Award for Outstanding Entertainer. His debut album “Ain’t We Got Fun!” was released in 2012 on the LML music label.
SAM LARAIA: Sam is so excited to make his debut at Vanguard! He has performed in numerous shows at Fairleigh Dickinson University: Company (Larry), A Little Night Music (Carl-Magnus), and Avenue Q (Brian). Community theater: Beauty and the Beast (Beast) and Little Shop of Horrors (Mr. Mushnik). He has recently received a BA in Musical Theater and Graphic Design from Fairleigh Dickinson. He is a part of Alpha Psi Omega, the national Honors society for Theater. He is the graphic designer and musical director at Harmony Dance Theater in Butler, N.J. He’d like to thank his parents, Kelsie, Vanguard and, of course, his Broadway Buddy!

BROADWAY BUDDY

GABRIELLE LECOUR: Gabrielle is eager to participate in her first Broadway Buddy mentorship program with Vanguard Theater Company. Her favorite theatre credits include Spring Awakening with Vanguard Theater Company, In the Heights at West Orange High School, Midnight Madness with New Jersey Youth Theatre, and Trojan Women performed at West Orange High School. Gabrielle is a senior at West Orange High School and has also trained in dance for more than 10 years at Unique Performance Arts Center. She is a captain of her step team, Nu Theta Omega, which won third place at a recent competition. Gabrielle is forever grateful for her parents’ continuous support of her performing endeavors, and Vanguard for such a wonderful opportunity to grow as a performing artist.

BROADWAY BUDDY

SALISHA THOMAS: Salisha is an actor originally from Fresno, California who now resides in New York City. She graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor’s Degree in Theater. Salisha is currently in rehearsal for the new Broadway musical, Once Upon a One More Time. Broadway: Beautiful: The Carole King Musical. Before pursuing theater, Salisha was a trained percussionist with an emphasis on Marimba and Xylophone. For voice, she has trained with Eric Futterer of Southern California. And in Manhattan, she trains with Ric Ryder of the Matt Farnsworth Vocal Studio. www.salishathomas.com

MALCOLM GREEN: Malcolm is elated to make his debut with Vanguard Theater Company! He has appeared in Rent (Tom Collins), Forbidden Theatre, Spring Awakening (Melchor), Aspire PAC, Bring It On, (La Cienaga), Rosen PAC, to name a few. He also had voice training from Mrs. Gwen Conley! He thanks Maranda Felton, Clifton Jones, Makhari Felton, and all of his friends for the love and support.

JANEECE FREEMAN CLARK: (Founding Artistic Director) As an artist educator, Janeece has been in residence at New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Paper Mill Playhouse, and Seton Hall University, where she has impacted the lives of thousands of young people in the arts. It brings her great joy to see graduates from many of her programs experiencing bustling careers in the arts and beyond.

To address the lack of diversity in traditional musical theater casting, training and mentorship, Janeece co-founded Vanguard Theater Company in 2015. Through signature programs such as Broadway Buddy Mentorship Program, DREAM VTC, Vanguard Kids, Vanguard Summerstock Sleepaway Camp, and VTC Mainstage productions, Vanguard has begun to gain regional and national recognition for its dedication to DREAM: Diversity, Reciprocity, Education, Awareness and Mentorship.

Janeece has directed over a dozen productions for VTC including: Hair, Sprays, Memphis, The Musical Man, Two Gentlemen of Verona The Musical, Children’s Letters To God, Carrie, Runaways, and more. Other favorite directing credits include the world premiere of the award-winning play Everything Is Fine Until It’s Not - the fastest selling show in NY’s Fringe Festival, which also had a successful Off-Broadway run in 2016; A Night In New Orleans (the story of a young Louis Armstrong); and A Portrait of Ray, a musical about the legendary Ray Charles, which had its Off-Broadway debut in 2016, and was also presented as a part of the Newark 350 Celebration. Janeece is currently directing the National Tour of Showtime with Shakespeare where hip hop meets Shakespeare.

Some of Janeece’s favorite past acting credits include: Broadway: Urinetown the Musical (Little Becky). Off Broadway: The Ark (Egyptus), Africa Plumbridge (Africa), A Band of Angels (Ella), and Constant Star (Ida B. Wells). Regional: Footloose (Rusty), Godspell (Joanne), The Wiz (Dorothy) Smokey Joe’s Café (Brenda), Ain’t Misbehavin’ (Charlayne), and A Midnight Star (Lila). For several seasons Janeece played the role of Molly on PBS’s children’s series Dittydoodle Works.

Janeece is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is completing her masters degree at Westminster Choir College.

TERRI GORGONE: (Music Supervisor) is a freelance musician and musical director in theaters and venues throughout NY and NJ. She is proud to serve on the Board of Vanguard Theater Company as the Music Supervisor and Secretary. She presently teaches musical theatre at the Cicely L. Tyson School of Performing Arts. Some of her most recent musical directing credits include: Working, Heathers, Two Gentleman of Verona, Children’s

PATRICK DANIEL DORROW (Video Editor/Sound Editor) Patrick has spent the past decade producing, performing, and music directing musical theatre and concerts. He grew up on the seacoast of New England, studied Musical Theatre at Chicago College for Performing Arts, and has served as a Director, Music Director, Performer, Designer, Teacher and accomplished musician at theaters and schools across the country. As a producer and director, Patrick has received awards for his productions of Summer of ’42, Green Day’s American Idiot, Cats, The Full Monty, Songs for a New World, and Little Shop of Horrors. He was recognized as one of the “Top Ten To Watch - Young Business Professionals” by Catapult Seacoast, received a Moss Hart Award for his teen production of Les Misérables, and was awarded “Outstanding Achievement in American Theatre” by the New England Theatre Conference. Most recently, Patrick music directed the National Tour of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Throughout the pandemic, he has been producing and editing music videos, teaching private voice and piano lessons, and running a virtual class called “Musical Theatre Kids - Online!”

PIETER ORLANDINI (Music Arranger/Accompanist): A transplant from Colorado, Pieter is a freelance music director and pianist as well as a vocal and audition coach. Recent shows include 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Working, Avenue Q, and Les Misérables. He is thrilled to be continuing work with Vanguard and hopes to keep supporting the company in the future!

ALEX RATNER (Music Director/Arranger/Pianist): Alex is a musical theatre writer, music director, and arranger whose projects include Tyrell, a musical prequel to Game of Thrones, most recently performed in London in February 2020; Stone and Sparrow, an original folk-pop drama set in Depression-era Kentucky; and an adaptation of White Oleander(sublicense from Warner Brothers Theatre Ventures). He is a member of the BMI Advanced Workshop, and winner of BMI’s Jerry Harrington Award, as well as the Jean Banks Award for his ten-minute musical comedy, Salad Days. Alex is a recent Yale graduate, and an alum of the Yale Whiffenpoofs. alexratnermusic.com / @alexratner
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