

CAST



Ernestine Jackson* has received two Tony Award nominations (Best Actress, Sarah Brown, *Guys and Dolls* - 1974 and Best Supporting Actress, Ruth Younger, *Raisin* - 1977). BROADWAY: *Applause* with Lauren Bacall; *Hello, Dolly* with Pearl Bailey and Cab Calloway; *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*; *The Bacchae*; and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. OFF-BROADWAY: *Brownstone* and *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. In 2004, Ms. Jackson won the Black Theatre Alliance Award for *Cookin' at the Cookery*. In 2006, she won the Connecticut Critics Circle Award for her performance in the one-woman show, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (Long Wharf Theatre), the story of the jazz legend Billie Holliday, a role that she first played in Chicago in 1989, for which she was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award. REGIONAL: *Elizabeth, The Old Settler* (Cleveland Playhouse); *Jack's Mother, Into the Woods* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Mama Rose, Gypsy* (Albany's Playhouse in the Park); and *Bloody Mary, South Pacific* (North Shore Music Theatre). TV & FILM: *The West Wing*; *Law & Order*; *A Man Called Hawk*; *Roots: The Next Generation*; *10,000 Black Men Named George* (Showtime); *Bonfire of the Vanities*; *Girls Town*; *Freedmland*; and *Steam Room*, an independent film with Ruby Dee, which will be released in 2008. A native of Corpus Christi, TX, Ms. Jackson resides with her husband in Manhattan.



Janice Lorraine* Born in Washington DC, living in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. *Cookin'* has garnered Janice the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Theatre Award for "Best Lead Performance in a Musical", The Black Theatre Alliance Award "Best Featured Actress in a Musical" and a Jeff Award nomination for "Outstanding Actress in a Supporting Role." Other Blessings: *Idlewild* with Outkast for HBO Motion Pictures and Cable: featured swing/lindyhop dancer. BROADWAY: *The Bernadette Peters Special at Radio City Music Hall* as a Rockette, *Ragtime* (also the national tour and the original Chicago company as Sarah's Friend), *Grease* (Teen Angel and Frenchy), *Jelly's Last Jam* with Gregory Hines, *Starlight Express*: Pearl and Buffy (also the national tour). *Dreamgirls*: Lorrell, *Tap Dance Kid*: Carole with Harold Nicholas, five productions of *Ain't Misbehavin'*: Charlaire, *Showboat*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, four productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* as Ronette and Chiffon, *The Mistress Cycle*, *Deutschland Lied & Harlem Story*: featured performer in Köln, Germany, *The Wiz*: Tornado, *Hello Dolly*: Ermengarde, *For Colored Girls...* as Lady in Yellow. E.C.I.T.S.-ECA and National Academy of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Trainer. Praise God from whom all my blessings flow! Love u "G", Peace.

BAND

William Knowles (Piano/ Conductor) is a graduate of Howard University and the University of Massachusetts. He hails from Milwaukee Wisconsin. He was awarded the 2001 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical Direction for *Dinah Was* (Arena Stage). Mr. Knowles was also the Musical Director for *All Night Strut* and *Ellington: The Life and Music of the Duke, King of Cool* and *Bricktop* at MetroStage. Mr. Knowles was nominated for the 2005 Helen Hayes Award for his work on *Tambourines to Glory*. He has recorded with poet Sonya Sanchez (*Full Moon of Sonya*) and Jimmy Jackson (*On My Way Home*, Blue Canoe records).

Yusef Chisholm (Bass) is a native Washingtonian and is one of the most innovative and stylistic bassists in both traditional and contemporary music. He formed Common Knowledge, a contemporary jazz ensemble in 1995 and has his own recording studio. Live performance credits include the *Tribute to Dick Gregory*, accompanying Stevie Wonder and Avanna Gregory. He played for Tom Jones' *Slam!* and for *Three Sistahs, All Night Strut*, *Ellington, King of Cool* and *Bricktop* here at MetroStage.

David Cole (Guitar) is a native Washingtonian who has accompanied such R&B Legends as: Percy Sledge, Archie Bell, The Clovers, The Jewels, Baby Washington, The Orioles, Dee Clark and Roberta Flack. He is currently a music teacher in the Washington DC Public School System. David is the leader of a professional blues band that have performed at the Historic U Street Bohemian Caverns, the Westminster Presbyterian Church, The Islander Restaurant, Downs Park in Pasadena MD, the Casino at Charles Town Race Track and at the 2005 Annual Blues Festival hosted by the DC Blues Society of which David is a member. Past performances he has done for MetroStage include *Nat King Cole: King of Cool* and *Bricktop*.

Greg Holloway (Drums) is a native of Washington, D.C. where he received an undergraduate degree in Music Education and Percussion Performance from Howard University (1980). He also participated in the Jazz Studies summer program at Eastman School of Music. Greg later pursued Masters in Education with an emphasis in Jazz Drumming/Percussion Methodology and Masters in Science (Counseling Psychology) from University of LaVerne in Southern California. Greg has performed with Hank Jones, Freda Payne, Carl Fontana, Chuck Israel, Jim Pugh, Maguire Sisters, heri Lewis, Bruce Conti, Rich Little, Aretha Franklin, Jimmy Heath and others. He has also played various shows in Palm Springs and served as Tympanist with the Anchorage Symphony 1995 season. His latest recording is "Turns" on G-Bop label. Recent theater credits include *Three Sistahs, All Night Strut, Ellington, Bricktop, Eubie* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Marion J. Caffey (Writer/Director/Choreographer) has performed, written, directed and choreographed on/for the Broadway stage and is thrilled to bring his *Cookin' at the Cookery* here to MetroStage. Local area work: *3 Mo' Divas* (www.3modivas.com) at Arena Stage; Creative Producer on the Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. His *Three Mo' Tenors* (www.threemotensorsontour.com) recently completed a limited run in New York at the Little Shubert Theater. Other projects include: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Bowfire*, *Blackbirds of Broadway*, *Chicago, da' Kink In My Hair*, *Forever Plaid*, *Jelly Roll: The Music and the Man*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *I Am Not A Dinner Mint*, *Tintypes*, *The All Night Strut*, *Purlie Victorious*, *Blues In The Night*, *Ruthless*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, *Spunk*, *Street Corner Symphony* (Broadway), *The Colored Museum*, *Prince of Haiti* and *1940's Radio Hour*. A special thanks to Carolyn Griffin. Honor, love, time and respect go to his family, Stephanie, Mari and Chris.

Danny Holgate (Musical Supervisor & Arranger) Credits include: musical director and arranger for *Don't Bother Me - I Can't Cope* and *Bubbling Brown Sugar*; musical supervision and arrangements for *Eubie*, *Guys and Dolls* (revival), *Rainbow Jones*; dance arranger for *Odyssey* and *It's Nice to Be Civilized*. He performed the role of Jimmy Powers with Lonnette McKee and also with S. Epatha Markerson in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* in NY and he was the musical supervisor and arranger. Pre-Broadway shows include: *Daddy Goodness*; *Two Faces of Africa*; *Golden Boy* (revival); *Stringbean* with Leslie Uggams; *Sweet and Hot*; *Aretha, Queen of Soul*; *Blackbirds of Broadway*; *Storyville* (revival) and *Ella*, currently touring U.S. repertory theatres. For many years, he was the conductor and arranger for the legendary Cab Calloway.

William Knowles (Music Director) see under Band

Dale F. Jordan (Set & Lighting Designer) Geva Theatre, Arena Stage, Tennessee Rep, Studio Arena, San Diego Rep, San Jose Rep, Geffen Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Huntington Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Alley Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Stage West, Asolo Theatre, Olney Theatre, Barter Theatre, Delaware Theatre, Long Island Stage Company, Capital Rep, Playmakers Rep, Arkansas Rep, Merrimack Rep, Portland Stage and others. CANADA- Manitoba Theatre Centre, Canadian Stage Company, National Arts Centre, Citadel Theatre and The Grand Theatre. NYC- *Cookin' At The Cookery*, *Three Mo' Tenors*, *BOWFIRE*, *Sea Marks*, *Sergeant Ola And His Followers*, *Hidden Parts*, *Alice And Fred*, *Death Of A Miner*, *China Fish*, *Season's Greetings & Wilderness Of Shur*. Dale lives in Florida with his wife Lisa and three sons, Dillon, Carson and Wyatt.

Marilyn A. Wall (Costume Designer) has designed and built costumes for more than 350 professional productions for stage and film. Her stage designs have been seen in San Diego, Boston, Denver, Connecticut, New York, Alabama, Massachusetts, and Toronto, and in the film world she has designed costumes and makeup for: *A Flash of Green*, with Ed Harris; *Shimmer*, with MaryBeth Hurt; *Ruby in Paradise*, with Ashley Judd; *Gathering Evidence*, with Angelina Jolie; *Miami Hustle*, with Kathy Ireland; and *Ulee's Gold*, with Peter Fonda and Patricia Richardson. Ms. Wall has also served as a designer for Phil Donahue, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Todd field, Joan Steffend, Scott Simon, and Travis Tritt. She is a two-time Emmy Award winner for her design work on *Salsa*, a national television children's series. Her original costume designs for *Cookin' at the Cookery* received an Audelco Award nomination and a Beverly Hills/Hollywood Theater Award nomination for Best Costume Design. She is the resident Costume Designer for The Hippodrome State Theatre in Gainesville, FL.

Bettie O. Rogers (Wigmaker/ Hair Designer) has made wigs and designed hairstyles for over 85 productions off-Broadway and regionally. Her Broadway credits include *A View From The Bridge*, *Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk*, *One Mo Time*, *Riverdance on Broadway*, *Street Corner Symphony*, and *Swinging On Star*. For television, Ms. Rogers is the Key Hair Designer for NBC's *Saturday Night Live*.

Steve Baena (Sound Engineer) is the owner/ head engineer of Funkymonkeyboymusic LLC, a Maryland-based sound company. After many years of doing this for fun, he finally got an education. Since graduating from Omega Studios engineering and recording school, Steve has managed to make a living out of this business. His work scopes UK nightclubs to the US capitol building and most things in between. This is his eighth production at MetroStage and is happy to be back again.

Jessica Winfield* (Stage Manager) is pleased to stage manage her third production at MetroStage. Other stage management credits include *Three Sistahs & tick, tick...BOOM!* (MetroStage), *Raisin the musical*, *Ragtime* (Morgan State University). She is also a freelance lighting designer and theatre electrician. She currently works at Arena Stage as an electrician and just finished designing lights for Run of The Mill's production of *Blood Wedding*. Other design credits include *Man of La Mancha* (Spotlighters Theatre) *Miss Evers Boys*, *Black Nativity*, *Story Train* (Morgan State University), *Night of January 6*, *Dreamgirls*- Assistant Lighting Designer (ARTSCENTRIC). She would like to thank her mother and sister for being supportive, Danielle for always coming through for her, the cast and crew for being terrific and Shirley Basfield Dunlap and Cheryl Williams for being great teachers and mentors.

James Mulhern (Technical Director) has worked in technical theater in the DC area for a few years. He is happy to be joining MetroStage for *Cookin'*.

Kevin Laughon (Production Manager) has worn many hats at MetroStage for three years. A graduate of Syracuse University, he is also an actor/singer/dancer and an accomplished choreographer/teacher who has worked at local theatres, schools and dance studios for 15 years. Kevin works on the technical side of many DC area theatres and he performed in *Kiss Me Kate* (Paul/ Hortensio) at Toby's last year. Films he worked on include *The Invasion*, *National Treasure 2* and *Burn After Reading*.

Carolyn Griffin (Producing Artistic Director) has been with MetroStage since its founding in 1984 and has produced over sixty mainstage productions, including four plays and three musicals that were world premieres. She is the co-founder of the Alexandria Arts Forum, which she chaired for five years, and has served on many regional panels for area arts commissions. Awards include the Actors' Center Award of Distinction, the Cultural Affairs Award from the Alexandria Commission for Women, the Award of Harmony from the Alexandria Harmonizers and the 2005 ALEX Award. She is on the Board of the Playwrights Forum and was chosen by the Canadian Embassy and the Helen Hayes Awards to travel to Canada in 2004 as part of the Canadian/Washington Theatre Partnership. She holds a Masters degree in Psychology from Catholic University and an MBA from Georgetown University. Her four children live in Washington DC, New York City, Savannah, Georgia, and Alexandria.