

CAST



Bernadine Mitchell* (Mahalia Jackson) METROSTAGE: *Three Sistahs* "Olive", *Mahalia* "Mahalia Jackson"; REGIONAL: *Bessie's Blues* "Bessie Smith", Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* "Mrs. Potts", *Crowns* "Velma & Mother Shaw", *Big River* "Alice", *Chicago* "The Matron"; INTERNATIONAL TOURS: *The Gospel at Colonus* "Antigone", 2005 Vienna Arts Festival, 2008 Greek Arts Festival, *Prelude to the Death in Venice* "Rose" (2007 Kilkenny Arts Festival); TV: *Today Show* (NBC), *The Guyana Tragedy* (CBS), *A Resting Place* (CBS); AWARDS: 1993 DramaLogue Award for Best Actress (*Bessie's Blues*, San Diego Repertory Theatre), 2002 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actress (*Blues in the Night*, Arena Stage), 2005 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actress (*Mahalia*, MetroStage), 2005 Suzi Bass Award for Best Actress (*Mahalia*, Theatre in the Square, Marietta, GA); EDUCATION: Voice and Music Theatre (Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, OH).



S. Renee Clark (Female Roles) METROSTAGE: *Bricktop* (Composer/Music Dir.); THE ALLIANCE THEATRE: *Jacques Brel* (Associate Music Dir./Conductor/Pianist), *Jesus Christ Super Star Gospel* (Assistant Music Dir./Keyboards); CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS: *Brer Rabbit and Friends* (Narrator/Pianist); HORIZON THEATRE: *Madeline's Christmas* (Mrs. Murphy/Music Dir.), *Cafe Puttanesca* (Music Dir./Pianist), *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change* (Pianist); THEATRICAL OUTFIT: *Waiting to Be Invited* (Ms. Louise), *Mahalia, Ain't Misbehavin* (Music Dir.), *Gee's Bend* (Music Dir.), *Big River* (Slave/Alice/Music Dir./Conductor/Pianist); THE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY: *The Fantasticks* (Music Dir./Conductor/Pianist), *Cabaret* (Music Dir./Conductor/Pianist), *Irma Vep* (Pianist/Original Score); YOUTH ENSEMBLE OF ATLANTA: *Endangered Species* (Composer/Music Dir.), *Colors of Love* (Mama/Composer/Music Dir.), *Rhymes or Reasons* (Composer/Music Dir.); VIA INTERNATIONAL: *Bricktop*; *Heart and Soul* (Music Arranger), *Love Johnny* (Music Arranger), *Wizard of Hip* (Music Dir./Pianist); THE LORRAINE HANSBERRY THEATRE: *Bricktop*; COLOR LINE CRUISE: *The Black Diamond Show* (Headliner/Arranger); FEATURED SOLO ENTERTAINER: Norway, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Morocco, Jordan; DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TOUR: Germany, Wales, Ireland, Scotland; AWARDS: 2009 Suzi Bass Award for Best Music Director (*Big River*).



William F. Hubbard* (Male Roles) METROSTAGE: *Cool Papa's Party*, *Pearl Bailey...By Request*, *Three Sistahs*, *Bricktop*, *Mahalia*, *Two Queens One Castle*, *All Night Strut*, *Harlem Rose*; DC AREA: *Black Pearl Sings!* (Ford's Theater); Debbie Allen's *Oman...O Man!*, *Black Nativity*, *Sepia Stages*, *Fat City* (Kennedy Center); *Spunk* (Atlas Performing Arts Center); REGIONAL: *Crowns* (Indianapolis Repertory Theater and Syracuse Stage); INTERNATIONAL: David Murray and Amiri Baraka's *Sisyphus Syndrome Revue* (Paris, Milan); Harlem Gospel Singers (Europe tour); *City@Peace* (Acco, Tel Aviv); AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS: Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical Direction (*Crowns*, Arena Stage), Alex Award for Excellence in an Artistic Discipline (Alexandria Commission for the Arts); NOMINATIONS: Helen Hayes Award (*Mahalia*, MetroStage; *Three Sistahs* with Tom Jones and Janet Pryce, MetroStage); COMPOSITIONS: *Three Sistahs*, *Two Queens One*

Castle, Harlem Rose, Full Moon of Sonia, God's Trombones, City@Peace, hymn "I Love You Lord Today" (New African American Heritage Hymnal).

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Thomas W. Jones II (Director)** has directed, written, and performed in more than 200 plays worldwide. In 1978, Tom founded Jomandi Productions, where, as Co-Artistic Director and Producing Director, Tom led Jomandi to become the third largest African-American theatre company in the United States. His work as writer, director, and actor has been acclaimed nationally and internationally. His work has received 42 Helen Hayes Award nominations winning 12 awards, including Best Director for Samm Art Williams' *Home* and his own *Bessie's Blues*. He has also received 3 New York Audelco Award nominations, the Dramalogue Award, the San Diego Critics Award, NAACP Phoenix Award, among others. In 2000, Tom and his co-founders left Jomandi to create the entertainment company VIA International Artists, Inc. and subsequently VIA Theatrical. His most recent work includes *The Bluest Eye, Bricktop, Point of Revue, Two Queens One Castle, Cool Papa's Party* and he has worked on an after hours cabaret series based on Delores Bundy's *Brown Sugar Diaries*.

S. Renee Clark (Music Director) *see under Cast*

Jessica Lee Winfield* (Stage Manager/ Lighting Designer) Credits include *The Stephen Schwartz Project, Three Sistahs, tick, tick...BOOM!, Cookin' at the Cookery, ROOMS* (MetroStage), *Raisin the musical and Ragtime* (Morgan State University). She is also a freelance lighting designer and theatre electrician. She currently works at Arena Stage as an electrician and received Honorable Mention in Broadwayworld.com for her design 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).

Janine Sunday (Costume Designer) is a Helen Hayes nominated actress usually found on stage. She was the associate designer for *The Musical of Musical (The Musical!)* here at MetroStage. She is also one of the resident designers for Toby's Dinner Theater and has costumed *Buddy Holly, Hot Nostalgia, All Shook Up, Midlife the Crisis Musical, Aida* and *White Christmas*. She is also the resident designer for Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts educational theater productions, and their Teen Professional Camps (*Beauty and the Beast, Evita, Les Miserables, Aida*). Janine has even grown ambitious in her limited sewing skills and has started making dress-up clothes for children. Thanks as always to family, friends and husband Russell.

Cathy Foerster Ebrada-Cleveland (Assistant Costume Designer) is a young Filipino-American Designer specializing in Bridal, Children's Dresses and Costumes. She moved to Leesburg from New York where she studied Fashion Atelier and received an AAS in Fashion Marketing and Merchandising at the prestigious Parsons School for Design. She specializes in fabric beading and accessory making (like wings and head dresses). Before moving to the United States 7 years ago, she was a budding fashion designer from the Philippines. Currently she is residing in Leesburg and maintains a shop at her residence. Cathy provides design, sewing and fashion styling services for her clients.

Vanessa Streeter (Wig Designer) DC AREA: Arena Stage (Hair, Wig and Makeup Supervisor); REGIONAL: Santa Fe Opera (Wig and Makeup Artist, Designer in Apprentice Scenes), Actors' Theatre of Louisville (Humana Festival Costume Design Intern); OTHER: Burning Coal Theatre Company, Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy, and Applause! Youth Theatre (all Costume Design); University of South Carolina (Graduate Assistant Wigs

and Makeup Artist); FILM: *Nailed* (mask work, yet to be released); EDUCATION: M.F.A. in Costume Design from the University of South Carolina and a B.A. in Theatre from Meredith College.

Steve Baena (*Sound Designer*) 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 fourteenth production at MetroStage and is happy to be back again.

Dannielle Hutchinson (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is pleased to return to MetroStage for a third season. Her previous assistant stage management credits include MetroStage: *Three Sistahs, tick, tick...BOOM!, Cookin' at the Cookery* and *The Stephen Schwartz Project*; Morgan: *Ragtime* and *Raisin the musical*. She graduated from Morgan State University in 2006 with BA in Theatre Arts. She would like to thank Jessica and Carolyn for this wonderful opportunity.

Brandon Guilliams (*Technical Director*) has built sets for Washington Shakespeare Company, JourneymanTheatre, Actors Theatre of Washington, Imagination Stage, Theatre J, Kennedy Center, as well as MetroStage. He also designed MetroStage's Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington shows. He got his start at the West End Dinner Theatre where he did it all from Kitchen Manager to tech to actor. Brandon's roots are in cooking as he has an Associates degree in culinary arts from Johnson and Wales University. He also currently works at the Kennedy Center answering the information line. Enjoy!

Kevin Laughon (*Production Manager*) has worn many hats at MetroStage for over 5 years. He works on the technical teams at many DC area theatres. 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 over 15 years. Kevin's last stage performance was in *The Producers* at Toby's. Films he has worked on include *Breach, The Visiting* and *Night at the Museum 2*.

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.

*Member of Actors Equity Association (AEA). Founded in 1913, AEA represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theater as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

**The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national labor union.