

CAST



Rosalind "Roz" White* (*Pearl Bailey*) is a vocalist, actor and teacher with over 20 years of professional experience and training. A Washington DC native, Roz graduated from both Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Howard University (BFA Musical Theatre '94). Roz has worked as a backing/ featured vocalist with many artists and producers including: Yolanda Adams, Gerald Levert, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, The O'Jays, and George Michael. Roz spent three years working as a lead vocalist on the legendary Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Acting roles include Effie White in *Dreamgirls* (National Tour), Mahalia Jackson in *Mahalia* (St. Louis Black Rep), The Woman of the World in *Blues in the Night* (Dallas Theatre Center) and Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (St. Louis Black Rep). Roz created the role of Hanna in *Rejoice!*, a new musical by Cheryl West (Alliance Theatre Atlanta, GA). At Metrostage, Roz starred in *Bricktop* as Alberta Hunter, as Momma in *Two Queens One Castle* and she has played both Marsha and Olive in *Three Sistahs*. Roz has served on the faculty at The Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Howard University's College of Arts and Sciences, the Children's Studio School of Arts and Architecture and WEDJ Public Charter School for the Performing Arts. She is currently serving as the Program Director for Art Creates Life "Journeys to a Dream" project, a 22-week arts and literacy program for elementary, middle and high school students. Roz has a hot R&B band called 'Chemistry', coming to a night spot near you! "Thanks to Tom Jones for always bringing out the very best in me...Thank you Carolyn and MetroStage family for this opportunity...Thanks to all my family and friends old and new...Mom, I love you...Michelle I am so proud of you... Anthony Jai and King Elijah, I hope Mamma makes you proud...John, I love you so very much...Pearl Bailey, thank you for incredible inspiration...Lord, you never cease to amaze me. Thank you for grace and mercy!"



William Hubbard* (*MC, Hot Lips Page*) is a composer, musician, vocalist and arranger, proud and honored to appear at MetroStage once again with Roz White. William most recently music directed *Piano Lesson* at the Lehigh Valley University and *Spunk* at the historic Atlas Theatre in Washington DC. He was last seen in the San Francisco production of *Bricktop* at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. He music directed *Three Sistahs* at Atlanta's Horizon Theatre and MetroStage's production of *Two Queens One Castle* which included his compositions. William made his Equity debut in *All Night Strut* at MetroStage. He is a Helen Hayes Award winner for "Best Musical Direction" for *Crowns* at the Arena Stage, and received a nomination for his work in *Mahalia*. His score for *Three Sistahs* also garnered him a Helen Hayes nomination along with Tom Jones and Janet Pryce which was part of the New York Festival of New Musicals. William has shared the stage with many of Gospel music's legends: Edwin Hawkins, Richard Smallwood, Walter Hawkins and Tramaine Hawkins and Yolanda Adams. He is internationally known for his hymn "I Love You Lord Today" published in the New African American Heritage Hymnal. Thanks to God for His many blessings and great love and mercy!

BAND

Marvin Avery Ford (*Conductor/ Piano*) is a native Washingtonian and he has entertained and delighted music aficionados with his unique blend of gospel, classical and jazz music. A prolific composer/arranger of sacred secular and instrumental piano music he is currently the Minister of Music of the Nativity Catholic Church and has composed and/or arranged hundreds of songs, Psalms, and responses for Catholic churches around the country. Ford is a proud member of ASCAP and the Pastoral Musicians of the Catholic churches of

America. He has provided music accompaniment for musical theater and for individuals such as Janice Chandler Eteme, Yolanda Adams, John P. Kee, Melba Moore and the Winans, just to name a few. Ford's many talents extend beyond music to include a variety of musical theater roles. Performances at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater as an actor in *Black Nativity* created the perfect segue to his 1996 debut concert and his 2003 solo concert in the Terrace Theater. Mr. Ford was honored in 2004 as the VH1 songwriter of the year in the category of instrumental alternative music.

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*, *Bricktop* and *Cookin' at the Cookery* 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, Cookin' at the Cookery* and *Rooms, a rock romance*.

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. While in the Air Force, Greg advanced to percussion section leader, Musical Director and leader of Jazz Ensembles, Rock Bands and various trios. Greg produced the CD "Midnight Sun" which features Ellington alumnus Freda Payne. Greg has performed with Hank Jones, Carl Fontana, Rob McConnell, Chuck Israel, Jim Pugh, Gene Bertincinni, Maguire Sisters, Sheri Lewis, Bruce Conti, Rich Little, sista Monica Parker, Aretha Franklin and Jimmy Heath. 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. He is also a member of the Pearl Concert Percussion and Vic Firth Education Team. Greg is currently the Director of Percussion at Flint High School and he has recently joined the adjunct jazz faculty at American University.

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Shirley Basfield Dunlap (Director)** is pleased to make her Metro Stage debut working with former students Jessica Winfield and Dannielle Hutchinson. She is Coordinator of Theatre Arts at Morgan State University. Her credits include *Fences* at Madison Rep featuring Roscoe Orman (Gordon of Sesame Street) as Troy; *Cookin' at the Cookery* in Phoenix, Arizona and *Flyin' West* at Iowa Summer Rep. Tony Award winner Melba Moore starred in two of Shirley's six productions of Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland's *From the Mississippi Delta*. She directed *Having Our Say* originating at Milwaukee Rep, moving to Buffalo's Studio Arena and Dallas Center Theater. Ms. Dunlap directed John Henry Redwood's *The Old Settler*; the late Ossie Davis in *Speak To Me Of Children*. Her work has also been seen at Ohio's Human Race Theatre Company, Florida's Hippodrome State Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company and Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Her favorite productions? ...Stacie and Wesley Dunlap!

Jessica Lee Winfield* (Stage Manager/ Lighting Designer) Credits include *The Stephen Schwartz Project*, *Three Sistahs*, *tick, tick...BOOM!*, *Cookin' at the Cookery* (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). She would like to thank her mother and sister for being supportive, Dannielle and Tonisha Keyinta 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.

Dannielle Hutchinson+ (Assistant Stage Manager) is pleased to return to MetroStage for a second 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 almost four 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 is currently performing in *The Producers* at Toby's. Films he worked on recently include *Burn After Reading* (with George Clooney), *State of Play* (with Ben Affleck) 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 committed to producing the best contemporary writing and showcasing the best regional artists for a broad-based audience from the Washington metropolitan area. 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.

**Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. (SSDC), an independent national labor union.

+Equity Membership Candidate (EMC.)