

CAST



Rosalind "Roz" White* (Pearl Bailey) METROSTAGE: *Two Queens One Castle* (Momma), *Bricktop* (Alberta Hunter), *Three Sistahs* (Marshal Olive), *Cool Papa's Party* (Paula/ Nikki/ Grandma Rose), *Pearl Bailey...By Request* (Pearl); REGIONAL: *Rejoice* (Hannah, True Colors Theatre Co., Atlanta, GA), *Once On This Island* (Erzulie, Actor's Theatre of Louisville), *Guys and Dolls* (Adelaide, St. Louis Black Rep), *Blues In The Night/ Woman of the World* (Dallas Theater Center), *Violet* (Almeta, A Contemporary Theater, Seattle WA); DC AREA: *Bessie's Blues* (Rhythm, Studio Theatre), *Eubie!* (Featured, Olney Theatre), *Black Nativity* (Clara Ward, Kennedy Center Terrace Theatre); NATIONAL TOURS: *Dreamgirls* (Effie/ Lorrell, Daedalus Productions, New Dreams Co. Ltd.); AWARDS: Helen Hayes Award (*Bessie's Blues*), Distinguished Howard Players, Distinguished Alumni Award (Howard University); EDUCATION: Duke Ellington School of the Arts (Vocal Performance '88), Howard University College of Fine Arts (B.F.A. '94).



William F. Hubbard* (MC, Hot Lips Page) 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).

BAND

William Knowles (Conductor/ Piano) hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. METROSTAGE: *All Night Strut*, *Ellington*, *King of Cool*, *Isn't it Romantic*, *Cookin' at the Cookery*, *Bricktop*, *Cool Papa's Party*; REGIONAL: *Blues in the Night*, *Dinah Was*, *Ain't Misbehavin*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*; EDUCATION: Howard University and the University of Massachusetts; AWARDS: 2005 Helen Hayes Award nominee for his work on *Tambourines to Glory* (True Colors), 2001 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical Direction for *Dinah Was* (Arena Stage). He has recorded with poet Sonya Sanchez (*Full Moon of Sonya*) and Jimmy Jackson (*On My Way Home*, Blue Canoe records). *Remembering Pearl* CD's are available in the lobby.

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 and recording studio in 1995. Yusef has performed at numerous venues across the world and jazz festivals such as the Ghana Jazz Festival and Clifford Brown Jazz Festival. He played for Tom Jones' *Slam!* and for *Three*

Sistahs, All Night Strut, Two Queens One Castle, Ellington, Bricktop and *Cookin' at the Cookery* here at MetroStage. Other theatre performance credits are *Pippin, Tambourines to Glory, Once on This Island, Dinah Was, All Around the World, and A Mark Twain Murder Mystery*. Yusef released his debut CD, *Well Kept Secret*, this year. He is also the 2008 Agnes Meyers Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

David B. Cole (Guitar) is a native Washingtonian who has accompanied such R&B legends as Percy Sledge, Roberta Flack, Archie Bell, The Clovers, Linda Clifford, The Jewels, Baby Washington, The Orioles, and Dee Clark, Delfonics and many of Washington's jazz luminaries. Leading his band, Main Street Blues, David has performed in a range of venues, including the historic Bohemian Caverns Club on U Street, The Islander restaurant, Jazz and Blues Night at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Downs Park in Pasadena, MD, and at the Charles Town Casino in West Virginia. David Cole & Main Street Blues were the headline act at the 2007 annual holiday blowout concert by the D.C. Blues Society and the 2008 Montpelier Blues concert series. METROSTAGE: *Pearl Bailey...By Request, ROOMS, Cookin' at the Cookery, Bricktop, King of Cool*; DC AREA: *Bee Hive* (Kennedy Center), *Thunder's Knocking On Your Door* (Arena Stage).

Greg Holloway (Drums) is a native of Washington, D.C. METROSTAGE: *Three Sistahs, All Night Strut, Bricktop, Ellington, Cookin' at the Cookery, Isn't Romantic, Cool Papa's Party, Pearl Bailey...By Request*; DC AREA: *Fiddler on the Roof, Eubie, Little Women* (Olney Theater); *Hello Dolly, West Side Story* (Rockville Musical Theater); *The Producers* (Arlington Players). CD: *Midnight Sun*. He has also played various shows in Palm Springs and served as Timpanist with the Anchorage Symphony. EDUCATION: Howard University (Music Education/ Percussion Performance), Jazz Studies summer program at Eastman School of Music, University of LaVerne in Southern California (Masters in Education with an emphasis in Jazz Drumming/ Percussion Methodology and Masters in Science - Psychology). Greg is also an Adjunct Professor at American University and Director of Percussion at Flint Hill School.

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*.

William Knowles (Music Director/ Arrangements) see under Band

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.

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 thirteenth production at MetroStage and is happy to be back again.

Dannielle Hutchinson (*Follow Spot Operator*) 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, Journeyman Theatre, 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 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 performance was in *The Producers* last year 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.